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PRESCRIBING BOOKS FOR THE SICK

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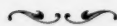
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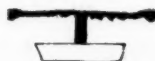
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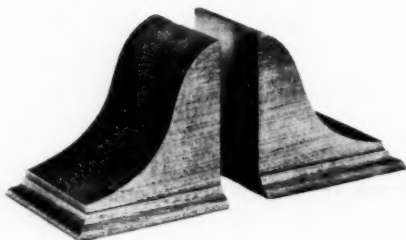
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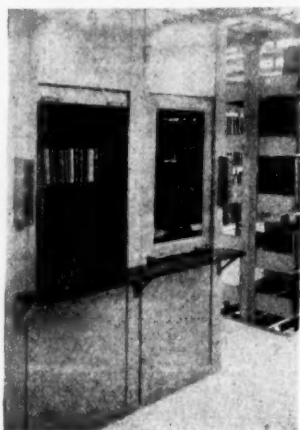
✿ The second installment of "Through the Looking Glass," a page of children's book reviews by Helen Martin, is given in this issue. After this, Miss Martin's page will be in the middle of the month issue, instead of the first of the month number.

✿ The December fifteenth number will specialize in public library Christmas exhibits with contributions from several libraries. Des Moines, Iowa, has an unusual method of celebrating Christmas at the library, and Fort Wayne, Indiana, holds a very complete exhibit of books during the entire month of December. This number is worth looking forward to.

✿ At the request of one of our readers we are covering the subject of Branch Book Buying in the January first number. Dr. Arthur Bostwick will tell of the problems in St. Louis and Bessie Sargeant Smith will discuss Cleveland's problems. Emma V. Baldwin, of Baker & Taylor, will also discuss the problems of book buying in a book store, and Forest Spaulding of Des Moines, Iowa, will tell of the problems of book buying in a Middle Western City.

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

DECEMBER 1, 1929

Prescribing Books for the Sick

The Books in a Well Chosen Hospital Library Stand Row Upon Row on the Shelves, Like Phials in the Pharmacy, and Contain Medicine for the Mind, More Keen, More Cordial Than the Medicines of the Body

By Louise Sweet

Formerly Assistant Supervisor of Hospital Libraries, U. S. Veterans' Bureau

THE FOUNDATION plank of bibliotherapy rests on the medically corroborated belief that "pleasure is an acceleration of the processes that make for life and growth, and this is true of our most ethereal and intellectual delights; that faith, hope and love seem to expand every cell of the body and that doubt, fear and hatred contract our tissues as if with poison—which they may physically be."¹

If this influence is exerted in health, its effect is intensified in illness, hence the purpose of selective application of books, admittedly affective of mood, in the latter state to help create or restore the one condition and to retard the other. But the hospital librarian who attempts to draw a rigid line of demarcation between the prescribed and the proscribed in patients' reading upholds a precarious ideal. She must recognize and accept variability of temperament and taste, more marked in sickness than in health, and often modify or abandon her selective principles to suit the patient's preference, but those selective principles that have accumulated from considered experience are held important, nevertheless, and are sought to be made operative within reasonable limits. It may be of interest to discuss some of them in their broad outlines and their departure from the guiding principles of public library book selection.

Therapeutic value being the measure by which a book is judged for hospital use, those are most prized which offer a maximum of wholesome, inspiring activity and a minimum of the morbid and disquieting. Of fiction, especially, which composes so large a bulk of hospital reading, these seem paramount requirements to make to qualify it for such service:

1. Objectivity of plot—stories preferably of action that carry the reader along zestfully and give him no time for retrospective bypaths. Pertwee in his *Rivers to Cross*, Willoughby's *Trail Eaters*, Brand's *Gun Tamer*, Farnol in his whimsical type of adventure, McCutcheon, *Drums of the North* by Smith, are instances of such non-taxing, wholly diverting fiction that leaves no troubling residue. Detective stories are outstanding in this class, though their proneness to incidents of horror and the abnormal introduces a special problem.

2. Emphasis on characters that win love and spur emulation. This point is stressed at the risk of seeming to advocate a too deliberate adherence to the cult of "sweetness and light," fatal to therapeutic benefit if suspected. The reader, however sophisticated, unconsciously aligns himself with the character about whom the action centers, if the plot is sufficiently engrossing, and he tastes with him the bitterness and sweets of his experience. There is a heartening exhilaration in even a vicarious

¹Durant, *Mansions of Philosophy*, p. 653.

winning through to a desired goal or in witnessing character emerging from adversity. Deeping's *Old Pybus* draws on our sympathy and admiration in this way; so does *Jorgensen* by Tupper and *The Transgressor* by Anthony Richardson—the story of a man of besmirched reputation who, as overseer of a gang of convicts, gloriously regains his self-esteem, but there are some incidents in it too harrowing for nervous patients. Comstock's *Speak to the Earth*, though it might seem depressing regarded in some lights, carries its hero through stress and disaster to such a level of maturing manhood that the reader is left with a sense of the great potentialities of human nature instead of with black despair.

A book's power to depress depends on so many personal factors that which books will be depressing and which not, cannot be dogmatically predicated. Fiction dealing with adversity would seem to fall into two classes, with correspondingly opposed reactions in the reader. *Joseph and His Brethren* by Freeman, for example, while sombre of atmosphere, is so relieved by the brothers' devotion to their farm and mute loyalty to each other, and by such ingratiating touches as Nancy's home-making instinct, that the book as a whole tugs warmly on our sympathies and supplies an agreeable "catharsis of the emotions." It may be, too, that since it pictures a condition far removed from the average reader's likelihood of experiencing, he more easily loses himself in the plot's convincing unfolding and gets an added satisfaction from his own immunity to its calamities. Stories that leave no doubt of their depressing quality are such as feature difficulties that hold a threat of universal application, a reminder of "there but by the grace of God go I," and expose the supersensitive minds of the ill to distressing trains of thought. Hamsun's *Hunger*, revealing the pangs of a starving man is of that nature, as is also *Meat* by Wilbur Steele, developing a situation induced by the presence of a defective son in a family circle. *The Closed Garden* by Julian Green presents an only too conceivable progressive sex fixation. This digression suggests consideration number

3. Avoidance in hospital literature of pathological characters and illnesses. Such a restriction invalidates, obviously, titles of superior merit judged by literary standards. Arnold Bennett's *Lord Rainsford* is a case in point, since a third of the book is given over to the sick room sequences of a fatally terminating illness of pneumonia. *Prodigals of Monte Carlo* by Oppenheim would not be therapeutically advisable to offer to a heart patient for that disease figures prominently in it. *Red Ashes* by Pedler would be, correspondingly, an unfortu-

nate selection for a surgical patient as a doctor's bungling of an operation forms the crux of the plot.

4. Religious or ethical propaganda or experimentations in moral fields are doubtful pabulum for the sick. It is the rare individual who is not emotionally biased in his convictions and when ill he is peculiarly vulnerable to bombardments of this nature. Upton Sinclair's *Boston* would be poor hospital reading for either sympathizers or disparagers of the much exploited Sacco and Vanzetti, since it provocatively revives their case. H. G. Wells' *Island of Dr. Moreau* elaborates an idea whose calm contemplation requires the sanity of health—that of a doctor's experimentations by which he makes animals into the semblance of men and inaugurates a society wholly devoid of moral sense. This is disqualified on two counts—that it raises a moral question and that it presents a doctor in a repellant light, which has bad psychological suggestion for those relying on his ministrations.

5. Authors with an assured and reasoned philosophy that sees purpose and compensating satisfactions in life are held in therapeutic esteem. Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius, though speaking from a far distant age, have a modern message. Many other philosophers of greater and lesser magnitude, some through the mouthpiece of fiction, supply incidental incentive to courage and adjustment that aids recovery. One patient reported after a reading of Chamberlain's *Silver Cord* that it gave him "a new viewpoint on life."

Inversely, philosophies of pessimism and futility are insidiously undermining to the morale of the sick. Oscar Wilde's *Picture of Dorian Gray* sparkles with brilliance and is intellectually challenging but it leaves an impaired image of human integrity and worth if one's spiritual fires are low. There appeared the significant item in a newspaper reference to a suicide that beside him was found a copy of *Dorian Gray*, opened at a page where suicide was being discussed.

The prevalence of suicide as an element of plots is a constant problem of the hospital librarian. Where only an allusion and the book otherwise has hospital qualifications, it may often be disregarded but where the technic of the act is described in detail or its justification defended, rejection appears wise. A recent detective story of "best-seller" popularity has this flaw, therapeutically speaking, and carries a foot-note from Nietzsche advocating suicide. Even among the normal there may press thoughts of self-destruction at crucial moments and physical incapacity increases their persuasion; among those nervously and mentally ill whose controls are least stable, precaution is

doubly needed to prevent book contacts that might breed such reflections.

The application of book therapy to different types of illness holds many as yet unexplored possibilities. A few of the restrictions that govern the selection of reading for the mentally incapacitated and for some other classes of patients have already been indicated. Considerations in the case of the tuberculous readily occur to mind: to avoid books in which the disease figures, especially in its terminal stages; to supply most generously stories of vigorous outdoor adventure and sportsmanship, there seeming to be often a craving for this kind of antidote to their forced inactivity; to avoid plots of such exciting nature as to raise temperatures, without sacrificing at the same time interest-holding qualities. There is to be combated also among the tuberculous an increased sensitivity to environment and a painful awareness of the ostracism inherent in their disease. Books that will mitigate this sensitiveness and give them a restorative sense of human brotherhood are invaluable therapeutic aids. Similarly other diseases call for their own special brands of bibliotherapy and open fascinating realms of diagnosis and treatment to the sympathetically imaginative and versed-in-her-wares librarian.

A minor aspect of the hospital library ideal that may well be termed "precarious" is its liability to misinterpretation by the casual public who confuse therapeutic disqualification with moral censorship. The public library can and should be broadly inclusive in its book selection since literary quality so predominantly decides its choice. Literary quality is incidental to hospital library selection, as has been heretofore noted, and subserves therapeutic considerations. Consequently it frequently happens that when the circulation of a book of deserved reputation but of hospital disability is discouraged within the latter precincts, uninitiated partisans of the book accuse a "Puritan of lurking behind the cloak of the alleged therapeutics." Theodore Dreiser's *American Tragedy* could not be spared from public library shelves but its pages of sordid human drama leading its hero to the eve of his electrocution are of questionable recuperative value to the sick. So urbane and delightful a writer as Charles E. Montague has produced a volume that needs some restriction among the sick. It is *Action and Other Stories* and the title story tells of a man contemplating suicide, which is to be made to appear an accident while climbing the Alps. A couple in dire peril enlist his heroic aid at the critical instant and the mental jolt this engenders makes him decide he is not ready to die. This story might have beneficial or injurious effects, depending on the

individual, and needs supervised use. Another of the stories, *Didn't Take Care of Himself*, describes a man's dying of tuberculosis. It is very vivid and stress is laid on his emaciation and visitors' reaction to the sight of him.

In the remaining important classes of hospital appeal, biography, travel and poetry, so ably considered in the hospital library program of the A. L. A. convention in May, selective principles would not depart markedly from those obtaining in public libraries and the exceptions have been covered by the papers referred to. Briefly compressed, they include, in biography, a preference for balanced, vital personalities, idealistically rather than over-realistically regarded—in travel, a happy admixture of hazard, carefree adventure and humor—and in both classes as in all hospital selection, especial regard to be given to the physical make-up of the books, that they be light, easily handled and their print large. While the average reader is less susceptible to the moods of poetry than of prose, affirmation and major rather than minor keys are sought as in other fields of literature. Schauflier's *Poetry Cure* applies this principle as does Morris and Adams' collection of popular poetry. *It Can Be Done*, well liked in hospitals, E. A. Robinson's *Cavender's House*, expressively described as "a melancholy fugue on the irony of death," has been adversely received in several hospitals, proving too introspective and depressing for the sensitive and suggestible.

The hospital library, in conclusion, plying as it does, in a medium whose values, though assured, are not patently demonstrable, relies often on the "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Its goal is summed up in these words of an indefatigably of bibliotherapy: "The books in a well chosen hospital library stand row upon row on the shelves like phials in the pharmacy. Those precious packages contain medicine for the mind, more keen, more cordial than the medicines of the body. If anyone is sad, a book will cheer him; if anyone is dull and weary, a book will recreate his spirits. If anyone is ignorant, a book will instruct him; fretful, it will calm him; rebellious, it will bring him peace. But just as the medicines of the body need to be studied, known, administered with skill, so there should be in every hospital a physician of the mind, a skillful student of books, who will recommend to every patient the phials of sweet thoughts and cordial sentences best suited to his mental cure. Sad is the hospital where medicine is provided for the body alone and cures for the spirit are little valued."²

²Edward F. Garesche, *Hospital Progress*, October, 1926, p. 397.

Bibliotherapy

The Use of Books as a Form of Treatment in a Neuropsychiatric Hospital

By G. O. Ireland, M.D.

United States Veterans' Hospital, American Lake, Wash.

SOME TIME ago a superintendent, representing a large institution, was asked what the name of his librarian might be. His reply was illuminating: "There is none at my hospital. In fact, I don't believe in libraries for neuropsychiatric hospitals." This was an arbitrary statement, but the doctor was not prepared to advance an adequate argument to sustain his contention.

Such a sweeping indictment of a recognized service seems unwarranted as the usefulness of the library is acknowledged by those whose privilege it is to devote their time to the study of psychiatry. Why should we not condemn the pharmacy or the hydrotherapy department? Time and experience have established both of these utilities as necessary adjuncts to the treatment of those who are suffering from some form of mental maladjustment. As advancement is made in the study of mental diseases, the attention of the psychiatrist is directed to the value of books as an aid to the proper adjustment of patients and one feels that the library service is deserving of considerable study in an effort to raise its use from a field of empiricism to a rational basis. I believe that bibliotherapy is a measure capable of development, and acceptance as a scientific adjunct in the treatment of mental diseases with valuable possibilities as a unit in our therapeutic armamentarium.

Since the war the importance of the Hospital Library has developed by leaps and bounds and the United States Veterans' Bureau, recognizing the high quality of such service, insists upon a technical examination and considerable experience among the qualifications for the position of Librarian. Today several universities prepare students for such positions. In addition to these essential requirements it is suggested that the librarian in the neuropsychiatric service have a knowledge of the mechanism of general symptomatology of the various psychoses and thus be prepared for many of the peculiarities which various patients may display.

Much can be done to help the mentally ill

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if the physician and librarian will cooperate. If it is desired to recommend or even to guide a course of reading, he will feel that his suggestions will be carried out in an intelligent manner, having abundant evidence that the library service is appreciated even in a hospital of this class. One cannot conceive of a man being the incumbent and the position of librarian should be held by a woman. She must be intensely sympathetic and incapable of voicing ideas which may antagonize. She must be in touch with all topics of the day and prepared to act as friend, advisor, counselor and guide of all, being interested in the sports of the moment, ready to look up any question, give advice which will be satisfactory and not too decided in her opinions. Her assistance and advice in choosing the proper class of reading should be of great value. For the special type of library service referred to in this article, one must remember that he is dealing with patients quite different in character and behavior from the general run of persons contacted in a public library.

It is suggested that the ideal library should not obviously be an official part of the institution, but should appear informal and as much like home as possible, rather than a hospital service. By all means let us get away from the prominent "white enamel." The general appearance should be cozy and inviting, bare walls relieved by pictures and flowers on the table, desk, curtains at the windows, a rug, and one or more big reading tables with easy chairs. Moreover, there should be a full stock of standard books (fiction and non-fiction), journals, newspapers, magazines of the higher type, and a bulletin board is a necessary adjunct, notices of entertainments, new books and the covers of new publications attracting the attention frequently and initiating a course of reading. Often in an neuropsychiatric hospital there should be a portable shelf, which rolls, for service in a receiving ward and infirmary.

The choice of books for such a library requires considerable care and a close inspection. A seemingly harmless volume may reveal the existence of sentiments innocuous to the average reader but possessing really alarming possibilities among the readers of our institution.

Take, for instance, *The House of Pride* by London, quite a harmless series of short stories, but *Koolau the Loper* begins thus: "Because we are sick they take away our liberty." Of course, this is taboo, for obvious reasons. It might be dynamite to a paranoid. It may be interesting to know that in a hospital of 400 neuropsychiatric patients 118 take advantage of this service in a fairly regular way. The librarian must be familiar with the normal reactions to impulse regardless of surroundings and teaching, as well as the native ability of the individual to modify and control the ill effects of any maladjustment. Even in a neuropsychiatric hospital we have evidence that sometimes her department utters the "open sesame" through which may be dissipated the clouds which obstruct the vision of many patients. Add to this the fact that a psychosis may develop as a refuge from improper environment, and that the internal economy of the individual is affected by emotional disturbances, such resources are reinforced by the natural ability of the human being to accept and reject within certain limits, episodes usually unassimilative, thus harmonizing any conflict; furthermore, there is present a surplus of working material—the margin of safety—which acts as a further defense against the effects of those devastating circumstances, which may terminate in psychic bankruptcy, and thus aids our efforts at repair to the end that our patient may become, if not actually productive, not a drone entirely.

Certain psychoses are characterized by seclusiveness and seeming inaccessibility but experience shows that this latter is merely apparent and not real. We know of many instances where a dormant association has been awakened by some unexpected incident and the patient has made an adjustment of varying permanency. Furthermore, actual practice shows us that frequently we arouse a train of associations while reading an article, the development of which may lead to activities of real importance. Considering our original equipment, is it not plausible to suppose that a similar reaction may result in the case of the psychotic, whose sensorium is capable of only partially functioning. Certain drawings or pictures, or even written phrases, may light up the consciousness which, in turn, awaken a desire for activity. We know that a good book is a boon to the person who has a long and tedious journey or even to the man who dreads going to bed for fear he cannot sleep, its distracting influence acts as a sedative.

It must be remembered that, in many instances, we are confronted with an individual suddenly bereft of his life-long allies, his special senses on whom always he has depended

to interpret, advise and guide him, they have ceased to function properly and he realizes vaguely that he cannot rely upon his grasp of the situation. He may be confused, not knowing where he is. Time and person are as nothing. Strange voices assail him and visions disturb him. He is obsessed by various ideas, false and utterly foreign to his accustomed trend. Values are distorted and any attempt to reason away these strange thoughts is futile. Frequently the patient has deteriorated and no longer does he react to ordinary stimuli as the average individual. Many of our patients are quite out of touch with their surroundings and their attention is difficult, if not impossible, to attract, let alone to maintain. We may be confronted with a man whose emotional reactions are out of proportion to the impulse which creates them. Very often he is absolutely indifferent to what is going on about him. His judgment is not sound enough to apply correctly any information he may receive. He may be restless and under a constant urge, which seeks vaguely, but finds no solution for his problems. Perhaps he will gain some relief from this tension in a few written words, which wake up a train of thought and perhaps be the keynote in arousing interests which are the first steps in the adjustment of a soul in torment. Take the self-centered, introspective individual who does no reading, but sits about the ward doing nothing, concerned with his own thoughts only. In some way his interest is awakened and he asks to go to the library and, if by some happy chance he obtains a book suited to him, much benefit may result, and if the ward surgeon and the librarian cooperate properly we can have the assurance that his interest will be directed along proper channels. As in other forms of therapy the factors of incompatibility and contraindication apply in bibliotherapy. We never allow drugs to be given indiscriminately. No sane man would prescribe strychnine in unlimited doses for insomnia. Then why books? One recalls *Beau Sabreur*, with its descriptions of native atrocities, and *Mother India*, which has the same objectionable features. Of course, such books would be absolutely out of place in the library of any neuropsychiatric hospital. Some works actually describe a mental state. One recalls the narcissism of the Archdeacon in *The Cathedral*. Of course, books detailing homicidal, suicidal or nihilistic ideas should be avoided if the patients' delusional trend and general tendencies indicate them as indigestible literary food. On no account should haphazard browsing be permitted unless under very close supervision. A paranoid, always a potential murderer, may obtain a book on poisons, or on electricity, thus aggravating his

symptoms and adding fuel to the flame of his delusional system. Do not give sad books to a mournful or depressed patient. A hazardous type of book to be used indiscriminately would be one on religion. Do not permit any old book to be sent to a patient. The very book which the physician has ordered to be denied the patient is very frequently purchased and sent to him by well-meaning friends and many channels for improper thoughts are opened up. These have to be confiscated.

One cannot afford to overlook a single chance to gain the interest of a patient and should he make a request for library service he should be satisfied even if he is unable to go himself. The little cargo of books can be brought to him and he be allowed to choose for himself. Possibly he is a comparative newcomer who, after spending countless hours in the dim recesses of a delirium, gradually and painfully makes his first excursion into the world of reality.

Our knowledge of the mechanism of the human instincts should be of invaluable assistance to us in choosing the vehicle by which to administer the doses of book therapy. In the case of each individual one should prepare a sort of a work sheet, setting out his name, important points in the family history of value, home environment, personal history, schooling, advantage taken of opportunities for education, reasons for leaving school, a review of his tastes or dislikes, his post-war activities, his post-war adjustment, a short review of events leading up to hospitalization, his present condition and complaint. Thus we may offer books designed to awaken old interests by association. To this we may add a prescription, such as the following, for which our librarian here must be thanked:

(Patient's name) (Ward) (Type)
MEMO from the librarian to Dr.:

Kindly suggest the type of books and magazines suitable for this patient's reading. Scientific, religious, practical arts (woodworking, gardening, etc.), travel, history, literature (plays, poetry, etc.), textbooks (grammars, arithmetics, etc.), fiction, exciting or serious.

Type to be avoided

(Signed) Librarian.

..... Ward Surgeon.

A thorough mental study is essential and special reference should be made to the intellectual activity of the individual, gauging the ability to acquire and retain information, judging his interest and power to outline judiciously that which is read. Is he lazy or active? What are his sexual ideas and of how much importance are they to him? What degree of self-reliance is there? What type is his feeling

of inferiority? Is he socially inadaptably? Has he had a love affair? Is he moody? Are there any evidences of feeling of inferiority? Is he adaptable? Is he inventive?

Special days should be assigned to certain wards and time reserved for them. There should be no rush. Patients should be taken to the library and allowed to choose their books, if possible, by themselves. If they are unable to do so, the assistant should lead them in the right direction. I believe that one might also go so far as reading aloud in the ward and story-telling, which may awaken dormant interests on the same principle which applies in the so-called group method of treatment for dementia praecox.

As an example of the soothing and sedative value of books, one often reads himself to sleep or the plot may stimulate tears. People are more eye-minded than audient and one should try to develop the desire for reading along lines of the instinct. Certain books, such as reference, create a considerable interest and such books as *Ask Me Another* are of great value.

On my own wards I make a practice of having magazines in evidence at all times. And I encourage subscription to the local dailies or the home-town publication. Frequently I have noticed patients glancing casually at odd sheets from newspapers more or less indifferently. One man in particular eventually made a habit of picking up a piece of the paper and gazing at it intently for long periods. Later he began to read aloud aimlessly and he has lately taken to reading the daily paper in a systematic fashion. Sometimes he reads aloud, but the content of his speech is nothing like the text in the paper. This may not seem to be of any importance, but to me it is an evidence that certain changes are taking place, which would not have been the case unless the literature had been on hand.

The idea of using books as a therapeutic measure is certainly not new, and recently I noted in a library publication the word "therapy" used in this exact sense, but the idea is usually developed along the lines of recreation and diversion. I suggest the use of bibliography as a true reconstructive agent in its broadest sense. Any suggestions are offered for what they may be worth and should they attract the attention and interest of others may they lead to the development of a real measure to be exhibited in the treatment of neuropsychiatric disease.

I wish to acknowledge cooperation on the part of Miss Margaret N. Johnson, our librarian at this hospital, who checked the type of literature called for by patients and who also prepared the card which is offered above.

The Selection of Modern Fiction for Hospital Use

If Only More of the Books Widely Advertised and Praised Truly Merited It and Achieved in Our Hospitals, as Elsewhere, the Happy Popularity That "The Bridge of San Luis Rey," "Giants in the Earth," and "Black Majesty" Have Known

By Esther F. Morris

Librarian, United States Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.

IN BUYING books for hospital libraries, the first problem is too often much like that of the sailor who midway between pay-days suggests to his buddy that they spend the evening ashore. "Fine," replies the second. "What'll we use for money?" We feel sometimes that there would be no difficulty in selecting fiction if we had ample funds with which to purchase it, that the reading of innumerable reviews and annotations, of weighing book with book, and of juggling the figures to make the books equal the budget would all be a pleasure, as indeed it is, which we regret we have not the opportunity to experience more often in our library work.

The chief end of the hospital library is therapeutic aid; consequently its primary interest is in the patient. Yet there are numerous other factions which will not be ignored. There are doctors, officers, nurses, corpsmen, Red Cross workers, civilian employees, possibly as on our station, pharmacist mates, all of whom expect to be supplied with their own particular brand of reading matter. Of fitting book to reader there is no end. The nurses and girls in the offices must have their Temple Baileys and Edith Whartons; the pharmacist mates must have their Zane Greys and H. C. Witwers; the doctors, their Sinclair Lewises and Sabatinis and Tarkingtons; the colored chauffeur, his Harold Bell Wright.

The librarian runs the gamut from Edgar Rice Burroughs to Virginia Woolf, and woe

be unto her if she misreads the signs and offers *Orlando* to the lover of the ape-man, or vice versa.

But our chief interest must be with the patient. The fact that a man is sick does not ordinarily change his taste in reading—the difference is more

in the viewpoint of the librarian who realizes that the motive in providing reading matter for the sick is quite different from that for the well. Leaving aside the problem of the psychiatric cases, for that is a subject in itself, the librarian's first aim in supplying the patient with a book is to give him occupation, interest him objectively, and so secure him contentment of



The Library in the United States Veterans' Hospital at Aspinwall, Pa., showing the magazine room in the distance

mind. Further than that she may be interested in providing him diversion, cultivation or inspiration.

The great demand of the enlisted man, sick or well, is for tales of adventure, western stories being, as anyone who has spent a day in a service library knows, his first love. Whether or not we wholly approve this taste, our quarrel is not so much with the book for what it is as for what it is not. Spirited outdoor life, swift and stirring action, pictures of American pioneer life vividly if crudely portrayed, clear moral values—these they do have even if they are "movie stuff," frequently blood-curdling and lurid, frankly ephemeral. It is the exceptional western story indeed which is sordid or contains any of the subterranean currents so prevalent in modern fiction. From

such vigorous tales the patient receives a solid enjoyment, in the face of which the intolerance of the intellectual seems absurd. His pleasure may be commonplace, but it is quite as real as the more intangible delight of the literary in polished and erudite fiction. I think we may buy and circulate these stories of the West and North generously, bearing always in mind, of course, that one book should lead the way to another of slightly different character and not continue forever in the same circle. Among the prevailing westerns of today there are a number which have something more than action and cleanliness to recommend them. Will James in *Smoky* and Sand gives a realistic picture of the West as it is today, and, although the stories are a bit mediocre, he more than makes up for it with his admirable black and white sketches. His bucking bronchos are surely the most terrifying in existence. Santee's *Cowboy* and Burns's *Billy the Kid*, although not fiction, are perhaps even better and are equally popular. Stewart Edward White, Jack London and Owen Wister in his inimitable *Virginian* have written westerns of a high order. Or the Zane Grey addict may be eventually encouraged to read the pioneer stories of Hamlin Garland, Willa Cather or Rolvaag's beautiful *Giants in the Earth*. Such direction of reading is, of course, not always possible. One old man in our hospital, affectionately dubbed "Pop" by the boys, regularly each week demands a two-gun book in which "there's shootin' on the first page, shootin' on the second, and whatever lovin' there is left to the last." He has been there almost a year, consistently refuses to look at anything else, but is completely satisfied when his demand is filled.

Rivalling the western in popularity and constantly growing more popular is the mystery and detective fiction. Some doubt may be expressed as to whether the latter is the more innocuous. The wholesale reading of these murder mysteries seems to me to be fatally capable of fostering an unhealthy and morbid taste for the gruesome. Yet the most bloody and horrifying of these tales can hardly equal our morning newspaper. And there is the unraveling of these elaborate plots, rather in the nature of a highly exciting and complicated puzzle, for which many of the devotees declare that they read them. It is rather a debatable question. Surely when the officer of the day or a night corpsman appears every afternoon for two or three new mysteries to keep him awake, one can hardly suppose that he is dwelling unduly on the grisly elements. Nor is this only a hospital mania. It is very evidently national, even universal. I recently read of a certain New York bookseller who was able to judge the state of the stock market by the

condition of his bookshelves. As the excitement in the market grows, the supply of mystery and detective fiction disappears, Wall Street magnates and lesser participants buying them as sedatives. And the *London Times* speaks of this class of fiction as being read "not only by the millions who dislike serious brainwork, but also by the hundreds who live for it, but enjoy a relief from it." It is rather difficult to believe that the late President Wilson was a most inveterate and discriminating reader of "shockers," and that President Hoover is said to keep several new mysteries near his bedside for the wakeful early morning hours, when he does the great bulk of his reading. According to one account, the President, after reading one of the 16 exciting volumes of *Commerce in the United States* in 1802, or some other such absorbing treatise, finds himself too wakeful, and really in need of sleep, lulls himself back to slumber with a murder mystery.

Because of the enormous vogue of the mystery, many writers, successful in other types of literature, have tried their hands here also. When Lord Charnwood, Hugh Walpole and A. A. Milne desert their regular work to write a thriller, their efforts deserve investigation. Certainly we have an unlimited field here from which to select, so many that most book aids and reviews now list their mystery and detective fiction separately. Not that this fact makes our task any easier. Valentine Williams in a recent exposition in the *Bookman* on detective fiction and the difficulties of successfully producing it says that the "ideal detective novel is one in which real flesh-and-blood people move through an exciting story." William Lyon Phelps, also a devotee, likes a little comedy with his tale—"a good combination of horror and humor in the present fashionable style of burlesque melodrama." The sum of these two makes, to my mind, the most desirable story for hospital use; living characters in an exciting but not too intense story, with plenty of comedy relief. Almost as well as he likes adventure, the average enlisted man likes comedy. Service men are, for the most part, essentially care-free, loving both excitement and amusement. They seek these diversions in life, and they seek them in fiction. The humorous story consequently ranks in popularity but little below the story of adventure, is highly desirable as therapeutic aid and should be bought in quantity, but cannot be discussed here. *The Bellamy Trial* is a good example of a mystery which fulfills the requirements mentioned. Earl Derr Biggers, John Buchan and Mary Roberts Rinehart also write excellent mystery yarns which contain clever comedy.

Another type of adventure story extremely

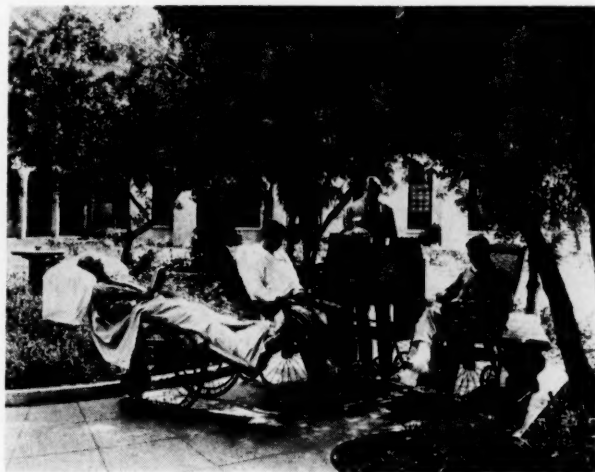
popular in our hospital and which should be briefly mentioned is that which is more or less allied with the service—the war, air and sea stories. Just as the small boy sees himself in his Alger hero, so the enlisted man lives through the experiences of *Sergeant Eadie*, the *Mysterious Aviator* and others of their ilk. Leonard Nason is no doubt one of the best of the group of story writers of the late war. He is good in description, narration and in dialogue. His oversea stories are as honest pictures as have yet come out of the war, and are dashed with the racy, rather brutal humor so characteristic of the A.E.F. Captain Thomason's *Fix Bayonets* and *Red Pants* also deserve enthusiastic mention. Charles B. Hawes wrote three good pirate stories, besides which there are innumerable splendid tales of the sea, among which Connolly, Conrad and McFee stand out as master writers. The air stories are a newer development and are rather

poorer, with the exception of actual accounts and technical information, which, fortunately, the service man really prefers. In fact, we have in this whole subject a very near thing to the non-fiction, for the accounts of actual battles and experiences on land, sea and in the air, which are now being published so plentifully, are requested almost as frequently. It requires very small bait to lure the reader of this sort of fiction to the very worth-while books of Lowell Thomas—*Raiders of the Deep*, *Count Luckner*, or to Byrd's *Skyward* and numerous others of a like nature which are well-written, informative and of some permanent value. This in itself seems sufficient reason for the encouragement of these readers.

You have all doubtless had the experience of hearing a patient whom you have considered an inveterate western or mystery story reader remark on returning a book—"That's the best book I ever read." Upon which you cast a rather disinterested eye at the title, and to your amazement discover it to be not *Nevada* or *The Greene Murder Case*, but *Sorrell and*

Son, So Big, Fortitude, or as happened recently Donn Byrne's lovely *Destiny Bay*. You conceal your surprise as well as you can and agree that the book is splendid—mentally debating with yourself on the how and why of this change—a subject worthy of wonder. You can only be grateful that the book was on your shelves where a boy might stumble upon it—and suggest other novels which contain both truth and beauty, in the hope that they will awaken the same response. It has been said, in better words than these, that we are all inarticulate Shakespeares, else Shakespeare would

not be read year after year and generation after generation. Shakespeare has put so well truths we did not even know we knew; he reveals us to ourselves with so much accuracy that we congratulate ourselves on our own perception. If this is so, then such delighted reaction to a book which is faithful to life as the able and sympathetic writer knows is



The Assistant Librarian issuing books to Patients at the Naval Hospital, San Diego

only natural. Whatever the reason, certain it is that a great number of our enlisted men crave more carefully written and more permanently satisfying reading matter than most of the books in the types so far name provide. And here we encounter our most difficult and, no doubt, most important problems. Every year scores of serious novels are published—problem novels, psychological novels, society novels, sex novels. From these, written by today's most able and finished craftsmen, should we not expect to find some art and felicity of writing, a sincere treatment and fidelity to life as it is? The first of these we are most likely to find, for the moderns are rather frighteningly clever; ordinarily the complaint is not on the score of literary merit. But so much of their output is cheerless, morbid or vulgar. They seem to have a grievance against the world as it is—and particularly against America as it is; their realism, on which they pride themselves, is that of the pessimist who sees only the depressing side of life. Their unreticence and obsession with matters of sex

make for an over exaggeration of a phase of life which, so emphasized, seems to many readers to be neither natural, pleasant, nor of any paramount interest. The morality of the modern novel is frequently discussed, and every library must decide what it will and will not circulate. Whatever it does, it is sure to be considered lax or self-righteous, or probably both. The decision as to what makes a novel moral is not easy either. To my mind, the best definition I have heard is that the moral novel is one "which makes clear that the wages of sin is death"—conversely, that the book which makes vice attractive, which does not mete out to the guilty his just retribution is not true to life and is consequently immoral.

We may wish to avoid purchasing for our hospitals because of their effect upon the sick, all that is gloomy, depressing and morbid; we may wish to avoid on any score the cheap, sensational and immoral, but we still have the business of selecting, often without seeing the book in question. Even a brief examination of the new novel is a great help. What with the competency advertisements of the publishers and the controversial opinions of critics and reviewers, the librarian is often misled. Perhaps you know as I do the disappointment

felt upon receipt of a book which has been lauded by critics as being "poignantly beautiful in its love story, stimulating in its realism, and able in its exposition of human strength and weakness," etc., etc.—only to find on reading that its love story is sentimental, its realism vulgar and its able exposition both depressing and futile. Of course, we may learn to depend pretty much upon certain writers and reviewers. If only more of the books widely advertised and praised truly merited it and achieved in our hospitals as elsewhere the happy popularity that *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, *Giants in the Earth* and *Black Majesty* have known. Such not being the case, we can only do our best to choose the best among the modern novels, as well as among the many other various types of fiction. Or as Dr. Bostwick has expressed it—we must try to "draw the line between harmful books and useful ones, silly books and wise ones, books that hinder and books that help, books that depress and those that exalt, books that stir up low emotions and those that excite the highest selves within us."

Paper given before a group of hospital librarians of the Veterans' Bureau and Navy which met at Washington during the A. L. A. meeting last May.

Library Hospital Service in Sioux City

How The Public Library Helps To Solve The Problems In A Hospital By Minimizing The Convalescent's Loneliness, By Promoting A Better Mental Condition, And By Returning The Individual To His Proper Place In The Scheme Of Life In A Normal State.

By Rose A. O'Connor

Hospital Librarian, Sioux City Public Library, Iowa

SINCE its establishment in 1919 by the Sioux City Public Library, the library service to general hospitals has grown to a full sized Department in the library system. At its inception the service was to hospitals only, but gradually requests from other institutions in the city brought about a broadening, until now it has been extended to all institutions, having for its clientèle a public in all walks of life from the derelict to the affluent. Included in this hospital service are two orphanages, two homes for unmarried mothers, a home for rehabilitation of young girls, and the jail.

To return to the library service as a unit of the general hospital and the place it holds therein, Dr. S. A. Sexton in an article on the subject says, "Hospitals may no longer be of the somber prison type; they must take on much of the character of the age in which we live,

and more and more as time goes on they will have to adopt novel methods of diverting minds while wrecked bodies are being restored. Among the new things that have already made their way into our institutions are the occupational therapy departments, the radio, the hospital reader and the library. What is to follow in this age of wonders we dare not predict. Probably the most important of all these is the library, which should be bountifully supplied with the best type of reading material for patients."¹ When the library in hospitals is thus considered to be almost of the greatest importance of all the outside agencies to come into the hospital, it seems conclusive proof that library service to the hospital has come to stay so long as it functions along its proper lines and within those of the hospital. Before the World War the public library had a com-

¹Modern Hospital, April 1929.

paratively small place in the general hospital, but the excellent work of the American Library Association in the hospitals at government camps awakened librarians to the practicability of such an extension.

The advent of the public library into the hospital has helped the latter to solve to a great degree the problem of the convalescent.

It minimizes his loneliness; it re-educates and eliminates a certain amount of discipline for the hospital; it gives attendants time to devote to the seriously ill and helps to promote a better mental condition, and to return the individual to his proper place in the scheme of

life in a normal state. For illustration, not long since we had a very good example of how the service helped an individual to re-establish herself. The mother of a growing family, who had carried for a long while the household responsibilities incumbent upon the wife of a farmer, had suffered a complete collapse. When she reached the point in her convalescence where the librarian and the books were admitted to her room, her chief worry was that she had completely forgotten the formula for cold packing the various food products of her garden. It was, of course, very easy to repair this particular lapse, but there were other serious lapses which were more difficult to help her through. But by friendliness, sympathy, close attention to her mental processes and careful selection of reading material, a long convalescence came to a happy end and an entirely normal mother returned to her place in the home. Another interesting patient, who came to us during the summer months, was totally blind. This youth had come home from the school for those afflicted to visit his parents and was stricken ill. Through his convalescence Braille books proved most helpful and a great joy. It is seldom that we have this type of patient with us, but the few times we have had has justified the purchase of the books in Braille. To see the light of happiness spread over these sightless countenances as the nimble

fingers fly across the page completes the day for the hospital librarian. One might enumerate endless incidents which occur daily. It but proves that hospital library service is becoming a curative and diversional power. It

not only relieves temporarily but contributes and sometimes hastens recovery. We quite often have patients who suffer from the non-reading complex, and it takes perseverance to get their interest. I am reminded of a certain man whose physician was most anxious to have him occupied, so he gave the hospital librarian the following prescription, to be handed him on library circulation day.



The Men's Solarium at the Woodbury County Hospital, Sioux City, Iowa

The following is an exact copy taken from the regular prescription blank used in the hospital:²

Jack Jones

R: 331

Light Reading—

Sig: One-half hour, three times daily after meals.

Dr. Smith.

By this subterfuge, this patient was induced to begin reading, first magazines and then books. Of course, there are patients who have read "millions" of books and wonder if we happen to have any good ones, and patience is certainly a virtue at such moments. In the selection of books it is most important to fit the book to the needs of the patient in so far as possible, and no effort should be considered too great to attain accomplishment. This necessity is most indelibly imprinted on our minds by the criticism of Juliet Wilbur Tompkins. "My books," she says, "are not the result of choice; they have just happened. . . . Can't a happy book be literature or literature a happy book? I resolve that I will write such a book, and when I fall ill I shall have it to read. . . . For why does one read? Not, please heaven, to be amused only, but to learn human truth, to get light on human relations. In health I can sit through anything that promises to satisfy the passion of curiosity about the human soul, but in sickness I want to be comforted.

²Names used are fictitious.

to be told that things sometimes do come right; I want my faith in joy reinforced."³ In her entire story Miss Tompkins lets us see the real irony of the invalid, and shows us wherein we grow careless or become tired and lose interest. Psychologists tell us we grow tired not so much from overwork as from lack of interest, and interest keeps alive as long as there is joy in accomplishing what one wishes to do. Hence those of us who serve the sick should know our wares and have a lively interest in them, then aim to know human nature and feel its needs. The fundamental aim of hospital library service should be to send back into society men and women equipped to function socially, educationally and economically.

Through its Hospital Library Service, the Public Library of Sioux City has gone a little further afield by its cooperation with instructors in the schools of nursing which each hospital maintains. It has been possible to bring about a required reading list for the student nurses, for which the student is given credit, and as the period of training extends through three years, it is quite possible to raise the standard of reading. It has always been our good fortune to receive the most gracious cooperation from all hospitals.

One of the greatest problems which I am sure has come to every hospital librarian has been the straying of books from room to room, from floor to floor and from hospital to the nurses' home. We have overcome this difficulty by charging books to patient's name and home address, as well as room number, which gives us a complete check. By this means it has become less and less the fashion to take books home to finish and has retarded the tendency of nurses in taking patients' books for personal use. Boxes of the mail type order but larger, and which have a trick slide by which a book once dropped into them cannot be removed, are placed in the main office in each hospital. On leaving books with patients, they are requested to see that books are returned to this box on leaving the hospital. This ruling, of course, applies to all who use the service. Missing or unreturned books are followed up by letters calling attention to the price paid for the book and requesting its return or replacement. Nurses are required to borrow books, for personal use, from the librarian either on her rounds or in the library rooms before or after the circulation of books to patients has been completed. The librarian remains in the library rooms for a stated period for this purpose. The two orphanages which we service give us a very interesting and worth-while contact. There are the story hours and the certificates for reading, granted by

the public library, which are used to encourage the children to good reading habits. The happiness and enthusiasm in these homes with which "Library Day" is greeted is but an added tribute to the hospital library service. In the homes for unmarried mothers and the rehabilitation homes for girls we are again received as a gift from on high, for, aside from the good reading materials, we bring to these shut-ins other things, such as good and simple plays for their own producing, assisting in the direction and costuming and stage setting. It becomes quite impossible to put into words the picture of interested activity these agencies produce.

In contemplation of the hospital librarian and the power for helpfulness she may become, permit me to quote Dr. J. C. Doane, medical director of the Jewish Hospital, Philadelphia, in responding to the question, "What can I do as a superintendent for the occupational therapist?" "I can recognize her if she deserves to be recognized as a specialist, a person who is recognized by the personnel of the hospital as one with a special service to give; something that she can do better than the average. By so doing I will permit her within the 'Holy of Holies' that surrounds the patient's bed. She will not be a stranger there because she brings in her basket something more than raffia and yarn—a healing service." If this be a requirement of the occupational therapist, then the hospital librarian should be equally well qualified and equipped so that she too may bring to those she serves a healing service. The hospital librarians should not become discouraged by the thought that her efforts are unappreciated. It might be well, should this condition exist, for her to take a little time for introspection and say to herself, "Am I losing my enthusiasm? Am I keeping abreast with the progress of events in my profession in general and my own job in particular? Am I on that job?" Hers should be a dignified enthusiasm, for it will tend to raise the enthusiasm of her contacts; cheerfulness should be hers, for it is a never-failing source of stimulation to her public; she should be consistent, never temperamental; the same tomorrow that she is today, and she will hold the respect of all with whom she comes in contact. Tact, too, is most important; it is demoralizing to hurt the feelings of others. With kindness and friendliness the hospital librarian has countless opportunities to be of service to her patrons. It will help much if she keeps in mind that she is a part of the personnel of an institution of mercy and healing, and that only friendly words and kindly acts have a place therein.

There is only one formula for success—work, work, work at the thing you want to do.

³J. W. Tompkins, "Hospital Night," *Harper's Magazine*, January 1929.

Librarian Authors

EDNA WHITEMAN, author of *Jane and Jerry* and editor of *Playmates in Print*, has had wide experience in library work. She received her training from the Pittsburgh Carnegie Library School, her knowledge of story telling from Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, and studied technique and interpretation under Mrs. Leland Powers. For two years she was Instructor in Story Telling in the Cleveland Public Library and from there went to Pittsburgh to be Instructor in Story Telling at the Carnegie Library School. During her years in Pittsburgh she gave her courses and lectures for classes in library work at Michigan University, Atlanta Library School and various other places. After eight years she left Pittsburgh, became a free lance and traveled about the country giving courses and directing plays with children. One of her most interesting trips was to the Hawaiian Islands, where she gave courses in the normal school and the public library, and produced plays with children at Honolulu, Hilo, and at a large sugar plantation school. She then spent a year with the San Francisco State Teachers College.

As a child she lived in "the wild country of the imagination" to an extent that was often remarked on. She invented stories and lived in them; imagined all sorts of wonderful things which might occur and really expected them to come to pass. Like most children, she loved to make up plays and act in them. She always loved children, and when she grew up she still delighted to play with them, make-believe with them, and read or tell stories to them. Always she has felt more at home with children than with grown-ups, and has appreciated their point of view. In her own words she tells how she came to enter the library field, "Love of books and of children led to my specializing in library work with children. Story telling was the most joyous part of the work. I enjoyed telling the great hero epics and sagas to the older boys and girls as much as telling folk tales to the younger ones. I decided to specialize in story telling."

Many of her friends and pupils urged her to publish some of her adaptations of stories and dramatizations, and finally she prepared a book of plays, which has not yet been published. Then came *Playmates in Print*. In making the selection for this collection of stories she followed a plan used in her story hours: that of giving a verse for which a story had created a receptive thought, either through relation of idea, subject or mood. Very soon after this book had found a place for itself in the hearts of many readers her publishers, Thomas Nelson & Sons, asked her for a wholly original



EDNA WHITEMAN

The Author of "Jane and Jerry" has had a wide experience in story-telling. The locale of this story is a little cove near Ogunquit, Maine

story. For two or three years *Jane and Jerry* had been growing into a story, and two delightful vacations at Ogunquit, Me., made her decide to make the locale of her story a little cove near the village, a cove dotted with fishermen's shacks and artists studios. Naturally, the setting is not entirely true to that place, but has variations to suit the story. The characters are entirely fictitious, as is the plot, but some of the incidents are from real life. *Jane and Jerry*, the story of two orphans of eight years, who spend a delightful month at this shore in Maine, was published during 1929.

Miss Whiteman wrote the chapter on Story Telling for the *Children's Library Yearbook*. For the past two years she has been living in Cleveland and commuting two days a week to give her work in Story Telling at the Pittsburgh Carnegie Library School. She also gave a course for teachers of the Platoon school in the Frick Training School for Teachers in Pittsburgh last winter. She has discontinued this work now.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

December 1, 1929

Editorial Forum

IT is a pleasant definition of a hospital that it is meant, not to keep sick folk in, but to make well folk, and this emphasizes rightly the usefulness of library work in hospitals. Since the A. L. A. took useful part in the World War and the hospital service connected with that cataclysm, more and more attention has been paid to book service in hospitals and the number of hospital librarians is steadily increasing. In this issue Dr. G. O. Ireland of the United States Veterans' Hospital at Washington, D. C., states that since the war the importance of hospital work has developed by leaps and bounds, and he discusses the use of books as a form of treatment in a neuropsychiatric hospital. The field offers often opportunity for those who are interested in the welfare of suffering humans and are anxious to bring them the recreative and remedial service of books. The hospital librarian fills an important position, and her knowledge of books must be even broader and more intimate than that of any other department. She must have read the books themselves that she offers her patients, not merely the titles and the criticisms in book reviews, for she has to discriminate between the book suitable for persons ill physically or mentally and those which might unpleasantly affect them. Doctors now realize that the hospital must look after the mental health of a patient during convalescence, and wholesome books do more than any other one thing to keep a patient happy and help him get well. It will not be long before no hospital will be considered complete until full attention is paid to this portion of its helpful work.

* * *

IT is only once in two thousand years that libraries have the opportunity offered by a *Bimillennium Vergilianum* for promoting adult education in the classics and encouraging school interest. The organizers of the American celebration are the Classical League of America and its Vice-President, Miss Anna P. MacVay, 418 Central Park West, New York City, is

chairman of the twenty-eight committees and general organizer. Libraries have been asked to cooperate by making at least exhibitions of the works of Vergil and the best books about him for reading clubs or general readers. It is hoped that many will also be able to organize educational exhibits in the spirit which librarians identify with the name of John Cotton Dana, and that one or more large libraries in the main book centers will make exhibits of rare books. Some arrangements have been made for loan material for such regional exhibits of rare material.

Junius Morgan's unique collection, presented to Princeton University Library, is already on exhibition at the Princeton Art Museum, the exhibition having been opened with suitable addresses, to which Mr. Morgan contributed a lantern slide account of Vergilian rarities. The hope has been expressed that the Princeton Library authorities and Mr. Morgan may be willing to lend some of these for a few regional exhibits—at least for a New York exhibition. This is certainly to be desired, as it is one of the most distinguished of American rare book collections and as a Vergilian collection equaled by few or none in any country.

The Bimillennium has also arranged with the Library of Congress Union Catalog to press its list of books in American libraries by and about Vergil, and the cooperation of libraries is asked in the effort to carry this to a point worthy of the occasion, before the end of the Bimillennial year 1930.

No doubt libraries will respond. It is their field and they have the habit of grasping opportunity when it comes.

E. C. R.

* * *

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, born at the centennial exhibition in 1876, has had the happy habit of cooperating in such national and international occasions as at Chicago in 1893, St. Louis in 1904, California in 1915 and in the several meetings abroad, which began with the organization of the Library Association of the United Kingdom in 1877, included the Brussels exhibition of 1910 and culminated in the Rome congress of the present year. Now that Chicago is looking forward to another great exhibition in 1933, it will be natural and right that, especially in view of the fact that the A. L. A. Headquarters are in Chicago, there should be another Chicago conference in that year. The International Federation of Library Associations has been invited to hold a second world conference there and it is also mooted that it may be practicable to have that year a Pan-American bibliographical and library conference succeeding the first, under the recent arrangements, which is scheduled for Havana in February, 1930.

Book Reviews

"Questioned Documents"

A BOOK which many libraries will be glad to find again in print is Albert S. Osborn's *Questioned Documents*, of which a second and much enlarged edition has recently appeared (Albany, N. Y.: Boyd Printing Co., cl., 1060 p., \$12.50). Dean Wigmore of the Northwestern University Law School has renewed his endorsement of the book made when the first edition was published in 1910. The value of such a book in a law library is indisputable, and it has been suggested that it may prove helpful in solving certain problems regarding autographs, ancient books and identification of forgeries of various kinds that are sometimes submitted to the librarian of a general library. The 340 illustrations included in the book would be of distinct value toward a solution of any such questions.

Evans' "American Bibliography"

VOLUME 10 of Charles Evans' *American Bibliography* carries the record over the years 1795-1796 (Chicago: Privately printed for the author by the Columbia Press, 1929). This "chronological dictionary of all books, pamphlets and periodical publications printed in the United States of America from the genesis of printing in 1639" will eventually come down to and include the year 1820. Each entry carries a notation of libraries possessing a copy of the title in question. Appendices include an index of authors, a classified subject index (in which theology, as would be expected, bulks large) and a list of printers and publishers.

Subject Index to Periodicals

THE (British) Library Association's *Subject Index to Periodicals* now covers the year 1927 with the volume recently issued (London: The Association, cl., 598p., £3 10s.), but the volumes 1923-25 are still to be edited. The entries of approximately 23,000 articles are selected from about 600 periodicals, chiefly British and American, but including a few Continental periodicals. Headings are arranged alphabetically by Library of Congress subject headings, with some modifications suggested by British practice. Magazine verse and fiction are not included.

The Library Movement in India

ABOUT eighteen months ago the Madras Library Association was started in India, and attention is drawn to the activities of the Association in their recent publication, *The Library Movement*, a collection of essays. The collection includes articles on the library movement in India, contributed by persons interested in the subject, with the twofold object of promulgating the essential ideas of the movement and of stirring thought so as to lead to the creation of suitable methods and machinery.

Work with Foreign Born

A LIST of dealers in foreign literature and suggestions on cataloging foreign books (by Adelaide F. Evans of the Detroit Public Library) are features of prime usefulness in the first handbook of the A. L. A. Committee on Work with the Foreign Born (*Reading Service to the Foreign Born*, A. L. A., 1929, pap., 60p., 25c.). Lists of racial organizations with educational programs and of national organizations that promote Americanization and inter-racial understanding are included in accordance with the aims stated in the preface: "The work of preparation has been undertaken with the knowledge that to the degree it is of use to libraries and other institutions it will also serve the cultural, civic and individual interests of friends and fellow-citizens of diverse racial origin."

Libraries in Mining Camps

LIBRARY WORK OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY. By Norma D. MacFadden. *Mining and Metallurgy*. August, 1929, Vol. 10, pages 369-371.

This article is an account of the library work of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. Its purpose is to establish libraries in mining camps where library facilities otherwise are not possible. Since 1924 16 libraries have been so established. Some of these libraries have as many as 4000 volumes. Most of the books have been secured as donations from the members of the auxiliary. Over 11,000 volumes have been placed in these libraries in the last three years.

Book Selection on World Affairs, III

The World Peace Foundation Mobilizes the Opinions of Experts
Throughout the United States

International Relations

Buell, R. L. *International Relations*. (27 votes) Holt. 1925. \$5.

"A veritable mine of information and thoughtful discussion on all phases of international relations."

Recommended as Advanced by Bradley, Flippin, Frierson, Hall, Henry, Johnson, LePage, Lyon, Martin, Mez, Taylor, Vandenbosch; as Intermediate by Baldwin, Blackburn, Ellis, Howard, Jensen, Maddox, Moon, White, Wood; as Elementary by Broda, Janowsky, Jenks, Lum, Williams.

Moon, Parker T. *Imperialism and World Politics*. (25 votes) Macmillan. 1926. \$3.50.

"Exceptionally well done and about the only thing in its field."

Recommended as Advanced by Bradley, Colegrove, Fenn, Flippin, Frierson, Hyde, Johnson, Kalijarvi, LePage, Lyon, Maddox, Martin, Taylor, Vandenbosch; as Intermediate by Herrick, Howard, Janowsky, Jenks, Jensen, Steward, White, Wood; as Elementary by Broda, Williams.

Potter, Pitman B. *Introduction to the Study of International Organization*. (17 votes) Century. 1928. \$4.

"An excellent book for general reading and as a text."

Recommended as Advanced by Colegrove, Flippin, Frierson, Howard, Kalijarvi, Maddox, Mez, Taylor, Vandenbosch, White, Williams; as Intermediate by Jensen, Martin; as Elementary by Baldwin, Ellis, Fenn, Lum.

Bassett, J. S. *The League of Nations*. (14 votes) Longmans. 1928. \$3.50.

"Emphasizes political history of the League. Sound interpretation of a mass of details."

Recommended as Advanced by Baldwin, Flippin, Frierson, Howard, Hyde, Jensen, Kalijarvi, Mez, Vandenbosch; as Intermediate by LePage, Steward, Williams; as Elementary by Blackburn.

Shotwell, James T. *War as an Instrument of National Policy*. (10 votes) Harcourt. 1929. \$3.50.

"Scholarly, sound. One of few contemporary works that should stand test of time."

Cooperating Professors: Frances E. Baldwin, Hood College; Glen A. Blackburn, Northern State Teachers College; Phillips Bradley, Amherst College; Rudolf Broda, Antioch College; Kenneth Colegrove, Northwestern University; Edward E. Curtis, Wellesley College; Stanton L. Davis, Case School of Applied Science; Ellen Deborah Ellis, Mt. Holyoke College; P. F. Fenn, Jr., Oberlin College; Percy Scott Flippin, Coker College; Mary E. Frierson, Mississippi State College for Women; Courtney Robert Hall, Adelphi College; H. W. Henry, Emory and Henry College; F. H. Herrick, Mills College; Laura E. Howard, Coker College; Arthur M. Hyde, Union College; Oscar I. Janowsky, College of the City of New York; Leland H. Jenks, Rollins College; Christen Jensen, Brigham Young University; Claudius O. Johnson, State College of Washington; Thorsten Kalijarvi, University of New Hampshire; Samuel M. LePage, Ottawa University; Kalfred Dip Lum, University of Hawaii; Ralph M. Lyon, The Citadel; William P. Maddox, University of Virginia; C. E. Martin, University of Washington; John Mez, University of Arizona; Parker T. Moon, Columbia University; Florence M. Steward, Alma College; J. E. Taylor, Doane College; A. Vandenbosch, University of Kentucky; Howard White, Miami University; John H. Wigmore, Northwestern University; Benjamin H. Williams, University of Pittsburgh; Frank H. Wood, Hamilton College.

Recommended as Advanced by Bradley, Hyde, Lyon, Maddox, Mez, Moon, White; as Intermediate by Steward, Williams.

Bustamente y Sirvén, A. S. de. *World Court*. (9 votes) Macmillan. 1925. \$3.

"An analysis of Court structure and organization, generally regarded as the best on the subject."

Recommended as Advanced by Blackburn, Colegrove, Flippin, Frierson, Henry, Howard, Jenks; as Intermediate by Ellis.

Bowman, Isaiah. *The New World*. (8 votes) World Book Co. 1928. \$4.80.

"The best compendium of political and quasi-political relations, as re-arranged by the war, in every region of world. A complete handbook of facts and trends."

Recommended as Advanced by Blackburn, Bradley, Frierson, Herrick, Lyon, Vandenbosch; as Intermediate by Wigmore; as Elementary by Kalijarvi.

Latané, J. H. *History of American Foreign Policy*. (8 votes) Doubleday, Doran. 1927. \$4.

"A well-balanced and scholarly survey."

Recommended as Advanced by Baldwin, Bradley, Frierson; as Intermediate by Curtis, Moon; as Elementary by Blackburn, Fenn, Williams.

Moon, Parker T. *Syllabus on International Relations*. (8 votes) Macmillan. 1925. \$2.

"Indispensable as introduction to the entire field."

Recommended as Advanced by Herrick, Lyon, Martin, Mez, Taylor; as Intermediate by Lum; as Elementary by Kalijarvi.

Rappard, William E. *International Relations as Viewed from Geneva*. (8 votes) Yale University Press. 1925. \$2.50.

"A most helpful analysis and exposition of the whole working machinery of the League of Nations."

Recommended as Advanced by Bradley, Flippin, Frierson, Howard, LePage, White; as Intermediate by Ellis, Martin.

Delaisi, Francis. *Political Myths and Economic Realities*. (7 votes) Viking. 1927. \$4.

"A keen analysis of the economic undercurrent."

Recommended as Advanced by Howard, Janowsky, Jenks, Kalijarvi, LePage, Mez, Vandenbosch.

In presenting this selected list of books on International Relations the World Peace Foundation aims to offer a guide to the best available material as recommended by composite expert opinion. To the end that these titles be indeed the most worth while the Foundation asked a large number of college professors teaching in the various fields relating to international affairs to recommend the best available books—elementary, intermediate and advanced—in the realm of their particular interest. All of the titles included here were recommended by five or more different professors and are arranged in the order of votes received. It is hoped that not only libraries, but study groups and individuals as well will find this list useful. The complete list of all titles on International Relations recommended as a result of this survey will be sent upon request.

- Fenwick, Charles G. *International Law*. (7 votes) Century, 1924. \$4.
 "An excellent book for general reading and as a text."
 Recommended as Advanced by Kalijarvi, LePage, Williams; as Intermediate by Baldwin; as Elementary by Blackburn, Henry, Lum.
- Gibbons, Herbert Adams. *Introduction to World Politics*. (7 votes) Century, 1922. \$4.
 "A readable account of world problems in their past developments."
 Recommended as Advanced by Flippin, Howard, Johnson; as Intermediate by Jensen, Kalijarvi, Vandenbosch, Wood.
- Hershey, A. S. *The Essentials of International Public Law and Organization*. (7 votes) Macmillan, 1927. \$4.75.
 "An excellent treatment of international organization against the background of international law."
 Recommended by Advanced by Maddox, White; as Intermediate by Baldwin, Blackburn, Broda, Ellis, Steward.
- Howard-Ellis, C. *Origin, Structure and Working of the League of Nations*. (7 votes) Houghton, 1928. \$7.
 "Clearly written and impartial."
 Recommended as Advanced by Baldwin, Bradley, Colegrove, Johnson, Maddox; as Intermediate by Blackburn, Ellis.
- Hudson, Manley O. *Permanent Court of International Justice and the Question of American Participation*. (7 votes) Harvard University Press, 1925. \$4.
 "A good account of development of international cooperation since the war."
 Recommended as Advanced by Blackburn, Broda, Colegrove, Mez, Moon; as Intermediate by Ellis.
- Buell, Raymond Leslie. *Europe, a History of Ten Years*. (6 votes) Macmillan, 1928. \$2.50.
 "A brief but reliable survey."
 Recommended as Advanced by Lyon; as Intermediate by Howard, LePage; as Elementary by Herrick, Jenks, Jensen.
- Fay, Sidney B. *The Origins of the World War*. 2v. (6 votes) Macmillan, 1928. \$9.
 "The outstanding work on the subject, in two volumes. . . . His position is a sound one: between the historians who insist upon definite responsibility and those who deny any responsibility."
 Recommended as Advanced by Fenn, Hall, Hyde, Jenks, Lyon, Moon.
- Hayes, C. J. H. *Essays on Nationalism*. (6 votes) Macmillan, 1926. \$3.
 "An excellent book which should be read by everybody. A critical examination of one of the most potentially dangerous forces in international life."
 Recommended as Advanced by Hall, Hyde, Lyon, Maddox, Moon; as Intermediate by Janowsky.
- Howland, C. P., ed. *Survey of American Foreign Relations*. (5 votes) Yale University Press, 1928. \$5.
 "A complete and useful account of American foreign policy in the last years."
- Recommended as Advanced by Herrick, Jensen, Mez, Moon, Vandenbosch; as Intermediate by Moon.
- Hughan, Jessie W. *The Study of International Government*. (5 votes) Crowell, 1923. \$2.75.
 "A useful text."
 Recommended as Intermediate by Herrick, Lum; as Elementary by Ellis, Jensen, White.
- Potter, Pitman B., and West, R. L. *International Civics*. (5 votes) Macmillan, 1927. \$1.60.
 "The best brief account of international relations for use in schools and general reading. . . ."
 Recommended as Elementary by Bradley, Maddox, Martin, Vandenbosch, White.
- Stuart, Graham H. *Latin America and the United States*. (5 votes) Century, 1928. \$3.75.
 "Probably the best general treatment."
 Recommended as Advanced by Henry, LePage, Maddox, Martin; as Intermediate by Fenn.

Monthly Aids to Teachers

THE LIBRARY at the State Teachers College, Florence, Ala., has a very interesting and useful collection of monthly aids or suggestions for teachers. The collection was started out of demand, by students doing practice teaching, for materials on the holidays, months, seasons, etc. At the time, September, 1928, the Library had very few books on the subject. However, there were a large number of old *Normal Instructor* and *Primary Plans*. These magazines were clipped by the librarians and sorted into twelve divisions, one for each month of the year. This collection included pictures, stories, poems, plays and dialogs, and birthdays of great men. New clippings are added from time to time and the collection has proved very useful and worth while.

A New Experiment

A NEW experiment was tried at Southeastern Teachers College, Durant, Okla., this year in effort to eradicate the timidity of the freshmen, and make them feel at home in the library. The most essential reference works were assembled with the *Readers' Guide* on the center table of the main reading room. Then the 250 freshmen were marshaled into the library and cornered in one end of the room. For one hour the librarian preached on the practical and efficient use of the library, using as texts the *College Handbook* and the reference works. In connection with the lecture, each freshman was presented with a bookmark giving an abridgment of the Dewey Classification System and a mimeographed copy of instructions for compiling a bibliography. The experiment met with marked success and seemed to be greatly appreciated by the freshmen.



Through the Looking Glass

*A Monthly Review of Children's Books
and Reading*

By Helen Martin

Library Work With Children, Western Reserve University School of Library Science.



CHRISTMAS would not be Christmas without books, and this season they are as festive as the holiday itself. The gayest is *Miki*, a fine example of the Petershams' art, in which the young hero travels as in a dream to the fascinating land of Hungary, and meets the herdsman, the goose, Sari, and the pup, Matyi. Brittany proved a real inspiration for Miss Brock's *Runaway Sardine*, who rolls à la Pancake through the village and back on many adventures. In the *Monkey Tale* Jocko of the jungle records his short, dramatic autobiography in prose and inimitable pictures by the Haders. From the brush of Elsa Beskow comes *Pelle's New Suit*, a delightfully colored but fragile picture book, and from England a clever and amusing book, similar to and by the author of *Clever Bill*, called *The Pirate Twins*.

A B C books, contrary to modern pedagogical practice, seem increasingly popular. Dugald Walker, inspired by an alphabet on a colonial sampler, has produced the quaint *Sally's A B C*. Contrasted with this is *Today's A B C Book*, very modern with its bright poster-like drawings, accompanied by simple text, of airplanes, garages and steam shovels.

The most exciting gifts sometimes come in the smallest packages, and *Pocket Handkerchief Park*, of pocket size, is no exception. For devotees of large books *Story of Woofin-Poofin*, the hero of which is an old-fashioned china dog, will be a treat, while the beautiful new colors of magenta and cerise are triumphs of the printer's art.

Antique shops have suddenly burst into print, for it was there that the ever-delightful scribe of childhood, Rachel Field, and her well-known artist friend, Dorothy Lathrop, discovered the little wooden doll who writes her memoirs in *Hitty—Her First Hundred Years*. Hitty, carved out of a bit of mountain ash by an old peddler for Phoebe, had with this little mistress and other devoted owners an adventurous Odyssey. She was worshipped as an idol, became the property of a Hindu snake charmer, and returned to staid respectability in Philadelphia. After several years of fashionable society during Civil War days both in the North and in the South, she finally reached the haven

Picture Books and Gift Books of a metropolitan antique shop. To paraphrase

the words of a poet in regard to another great traveler, this heroine is one who "cannot rest from travel but will drink life to the lees." The sketches, many rich in color, are expressive of Hitty's vivid personality, while the calico cover further preserves the old-time atmosphere.

The *Odyssey of Homer*, translated by George Herbert Palmer and illustrated by Wyeth, has just been announced, and makes a gift book, indeed, both in price and make-up, a real addition to home and library bookshelves. James Daugherty has chosen certain great names and events of the *Old Testament* and presented them in the actual words of the immortal King James version with the impressive title *The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory*. Added to his dramatic sense as selector is that of artist, for his bold, dignified drawings are often reminiscent of Blake.

Young boys will thoroughly enjoy Kurt Wiese's fine tale, *Karoo the Kangaroo*. The warm yellow-toned paper used throughout forms a soft background for the pastel-like drawings, and marks a radical departure in book making. *The Goldsmith of Florence* is unusual, both in content and make-up, and the outcome of a series of talks to children at the Cleveland Art Museum. With rare skill Miss Gibson combines authoritative art information with a story-telling narrative. Dramatic accounts of craftsmen of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance are told, and, bridging the past and present through the story of Paul Revere, colonial silversmith, concludes with stories of two modern artists who, even in this mechanical age, carry on the torch of craftsmanship. In spite of its quarto size, it will be used constantly for the invaluable material, excellent bibliography and illustrations, by teachers and librarians. It will also enable parents to introduce their children at an early age to the world of artistic expression, and finally will be treasure-trove indeed for the children themselves.

Cuts, at top of page, of the "White Knight sliding down the poker" are taken by permission from the Tenniel edition of *Through the Looking Glass* published by Macmillan Co.

For Bibliography of books reviewed see p. 992.

Book News

Book Club Selections

(for December)

AMERICAN BUSINESS BOOK LEAGUE

Hand to Mouth, by Leverett S. Lyons. Brookings Institute.

BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB

Franklin: The Apostle of Modern Times, by Bernard Fay. Little, Brown.

BOOK LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Joe Pete, by Florence E. McClinchey. Holt.

CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

King Spider, by D. B. Wyndham Lewis. Coward-McCann.

DETECTIVE STORY CLUB

Poisoned Chocolates Case, by Anthony Berkeley. Doubleday, Doran.

LITERARY GUILD

Candide, by Voltaire (Rockwell Kent ed.). Random House.

* * *

Franklin the Friend and Founder of Libraries

THE FRIEND and founder of libraries is the title given to Benjamin Franklin by Asa Don Dickinson, librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, in one of a collection of essays called *The Amazing Benjamin Franklin*, recently published by Stokes. Through Mr. Dickinson, the American Library Association pays tribute, with more than two score organizations, government officials, and distinguished men of affairs, to the social genius of the man whose first project of a public nature was the establishment of a subscription library. Franklin was actually librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia for three months and was, for more than a quarter of a century, on the board of directors. He was also the founder of a library in Franklin, Mass., a place named after him, and gave books to Harvard, Yale, Pennsylvania and other universities. In addition to honoring him as a friend of libraries, these new essays pay tribute to Franklin as statesman, philosopher, printer, scientist, inventor, economist, "patron saint of the music industries," athlete and humorist. The book, issued under the auspices of the Philadelphia chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, is printed by the Franklin Printing Company, founded by Franklin in 1728, and bears a foreword by President Hoover.

Best Sellers

(from the Book Stores)

FICTION

Remarque. *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Little, Brown. \$2.50.

De La Roche. *Whitecoats of Jalna*. Little, Brown. \$2.50.

Hemingway. *A Farewell to Arms*. Scribner. \$2.50.

Deeping. *Roper's Row*. Knopf. \$2.50.

Ertz. *The Galaxy*. Appleton. \$2.50.

Glasgow. *They Stooped to Folly*. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50.

Walpole. *Hans Frost*. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50.

Byrne. *Field of Honor*. Century. \$2.50.

Green. *The Dark Journey*. Harper. \$2.50.

Hutchinson. *The Uncertain Trumpet*. Little, Brown. \$2.50.

NON-FICTION

Sale. *The Specialist*. Specialist Pub. Co. \$1.

Bowers. *The Tragic Era*. Houghton, Mifflin. \$5.

Dimmet. *The Art of Thinking*. Simon & Schuster. \$2.50.

Hackett. *Henry the Eighth*. Liveright. \$3.

Lippmann. *A Preface to Morals*. Macmillan. \$2.50.

Anthony. *Queen Elizabeth*. Knopf. \$4.

Work. *Contract Bridge for All*. Winston. \$2.

Durant. *The Mansions of Philosophy*. Simon & Schuster. \$5.

Rolland. *Beethoven the Creator*. Harper. \$5.

Ford. *Salt Water Taffy*. Putnam. \$2.50.

Supplement to Standard Catalog

THE SECOND annual supplement to the second edition of the Biography Section of the *Standard Catalog for Public Libraries* (Wilson, 1927), is cumulative and, in addition to covering new titles, also includes 95 books which made up the first supplement in 1928. All titles are fully annotated and authorities for the notes are given. The selection is made primarily to meet the needs of small and medium-sized libraries, and arrangement follows that of the *Catalog* itself. The supplement is furnished free of charge to subscribers to the entire series of the *Catalog*.

Books for a Home Library

A LIST of books for "A Home Library" was recently used by the Buffalo Public Library in connection with an exhibit at the Better Homes and Building Exposition. The library took a great deal of care in selecting inexpensive editions for this list, as the books were purchase suggestions.

In the Library World

The 1930 A. L. A. Conference

WORD has just come to us from Headquarters that the next A. L. A. Conference will be held in Los Angeles sometime between June 23 and July 5, the exact date not yet decided on.

It is fifteen years since the San Francisco Conference and a new generation has sprung up which will enjoy this opportunity to visit California at its best season.

We can depend on the well-known California hospitality to make this a most pleasant and successful meeting. Headquarters will be at the Biltmore Hotel, not far from the new Public Library of which Los Angeles is so proud.

North Carolina News Letter

TWENTY thousand copies of the *North Carolina News Letter*, a single press sheet, are distributed throughout North Carolina by the State University weekly. L. R. Wilson, University Librarian, is on the editorial board, and a recent issue was devoted entirely to library work. Among other things, this issue covered Adult Education Services, a note of the dedication of the new University Library, and a list of Public Libraries in North Carolina.

Histories of Magazines

THE LIBRARY at the State Teachers College, Florence, Ala., has a very interesting and valuable collection of histories of magazines. The idea was that of Miss Anne Beasley, Assistant Librarian, who had each student in her library science class write for the history of a different magazine. The letters were addressed directly to the publisher of each magazine. This cared for about a third of the magazines sub-



A Girl Scout taking books to a "Shut-In" in Des Moines, Iowa. Borrower is filling out an application

scribed for by the library. The Librarian completed the list in her office. The publishers were very generous in supplying information about the magazines. Each history was placed in a manila folder and filed, so that with a minute's notice, any history of any magazine in the library can be had. This collection is not only used by the library science students, but also by the English classes.

Mann Wins Nobel Literary Prize

THOMAS MANN, German author, has been awarded the Nobel prize in literature. His first novel was *Little Friedemann*, written when he was twenty-three. Five years later he produced *Buddenbrooks* and *Tondo Kraeger*. His *Royal Highness* and *Death in Venice* are both pre-war books, and in 1917 he wrote *Reflections of a Non-Political Person*. In 1923 he wrote *The German Republic* and in 1924 completed one of his finest works, *The Magic Mountain*. His complete works in German make ten volumes, and he is now writing a novel, *Joseph and His Brothers*, in which he is dealing for his first time with a Biblical subject. He will be presented the prize, by the Swedish King, early in December, at Stockholm.



A Hospital Story Hour in the Boys' and Girls' Home, Sioux City, Iowa

McDonald to Resume Talks

ON DECEMBER NINE the National Broadcasting Corporation radio talks on foreign affairs, by James G. McDonald, will be resumed, in view of their great popularity during last season. The World Peace Foundation of Boston will continue to supply bibliographies on each radio broadcast in the form of "Radio Numbers" of International Book News. Last season nearly 700 libraries, representing every State in the Union excepting Nevada, made use of this service, including many communities located at considerable distance from radio stations rebroadcasting this weekly feature. It is perhaps not surprising that in New York City alone 32 libraries should use the radio book lists, nor that the New England library total should reach 96. But it is significant of the educational value of the book lists, although designed primarily for bulletin board use, that 78 should have been requested from foreign addresses. Librarians who were on the radio mailing list last year will continue to receive these bibliographies. Other libraries may receive them, without charge, by requesting this service from the World Peace Foundation.

Imperial War Museum

THE ANNUAL report of the Imperial War Museum at South Kensington, England, states that upwards of 50,000 books (apart from pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, manuscripts, diaries, etc.), are now contained in the library. This is claimed to be the most complete collection of war literature in existence. Exchange of material has been carried on with the United States Hoover War Library, resulting in the addition of some 150 books and pamphlets.

New Lenin Library in Moscow

THE PLANS for the new building of the Lenin Library in Moscow have finally been adopted. It will have nine reading rooms and accommodations for 8000 persons daily. The 6,500,000 books which it will possess will make it one of the great libraries of the world. The libraries of Chekhov, Gorky, Tolstoy and other Russian writers will be assembled here, together with manuscripts and rare and important editions of their writings.

An Annual Gift

THE FRANKLIN and Marshall College Library, Lancaster, Pa., recently received from General H. C. Trexler, a member of the Library Committee of the Board of Trustees, the sum of \$1,000, to be spent during the year for whatever purpose the library sees fit. This gift is to be given annually for an indefinite period. This year the money will be used for books.

Ruth M. Wright Memorial Fund

FRIENDS who have had the privilege of knowing Ruth Wright intimately both professionally and personally, wish to express in a permanently useful way their recognition of the rich contribution which she made to the library profession and their appreciation of the strength and beauty of her rare personality. Believing that there are many others who might wish to take part in the memorial to Miss Wright, the Ruth M. Wright Memorial Fund Committee has been organized. The Committee has decided that the most fitting form for the memorial to take is that of a loan fund to be administered by the Pratt Institute School of Library Science, the school which Miss Wright attended, for the benefit of students preparing to enter the profession to which she devoted her life. Pratt Institute has agreed to accept the fund and to devote it to the purposes described by the Committee. All who wish to share in this memorial are invited to send their contributions to the Treasurer, Miss Helen K. Starr, James Jerome Hill Reference Library, St. Paul, Minn., or to any other member of the Committee.

Library Memory Shelf

THE Abilene Free Public Library has introduced a unique feature—a memory shelf, to which choice books, or money for their purchase, may be contributed in memory of deceased friends, thus continuing their service to their community. A plate stating for whom and by whom the books were given is placed in the front of each book, and notices of gifts are sent to bereaved families.

Libraries in Mexico

NEW LIBRARIES to the number of 580 were established in Mexico during the past year, and 471 libraries founded the preceding year were enlarged, according to the United States Bureau of Education.

Louvain Collection Restored

THE RESTORATION of Louvain's Library book collection has been at last completed. Germany has restored 300,000 volumes, and a further 350,000 have been assembled by private contributions from Great Britain, the United States, France, Canada, Poland, Holland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and China.

Queens Dedicates Central Library

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY of the Queens Borough Public Library at Jamaica, Borough of Queens, New York City, was dedicated by the Mayor of the City of New York, James J. Walker, on Nov. 1, 1929.

Library Organizations

Zona Gale Addresses Illinois Association

THE THIRTY-THIRD annual meeting of the Illinois Library Association was held at Urbana, Ill., October 16-18, 1929, with a registered attendance of 341. At the opening session on Wednesday afternoon Mr. Browning introduced Professor William L. Bailey, professor of sociology, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., who spoke on "Community Needs." The evening program included a reading by Dr. Paul N. Landis, professor of English, University of Illinois, of *John Brown's Body*, by Benét. This was followed by a social hour, at which the members of the association were guests of the University of Illinois Library Club. On Thursday morning the second general session was held, with Professor W. L. Bailey continuing his address of the previous morning on "Library Needs." Following these two addresses, discussion was led by Miss Nellie Parham of Bloomington, Ill., and Miss Pearl Field of the Chicago Public Library. Thursday afternoon was given over to the Children's Section under the direction of Miss Winnifred Bright, Children's Librarian of the Wilmette Public Library. The following program was given:

"Intermediate Reading," by Mrs. Lucille Pannell, Librarian, Herzl Junior High School, Chicago; "Intermediate Reading—Poetry," by Miss Mary Ayres, Children's Librarian, Oak Park Public Library; "Elimination of Children's Books No Longer Valuable for Children's Shelves," by Miss Agatha Shea, Chicago Public Library; "School Children's Illustrations of Favorite Books," by Miss Frances Donnelly, art supervisor, Public Schools, Wilmette, and "Recent Books for Children," by Miss Ada Whitcomb, supervisor of work with schools, Chicago. Thursday evening the conference dinner was held at the Wesley Foundation, where Miss Zona Gale spoke on "Some Tendencies in Modern Fiction." Friday morning was given over to sectional meetings; the Lending Section meeting at 9 a.m., with Miss Matilde Kelly of the Chicago Public Library in charge. The College and Reference Section followed, in charge of Miss Effie A. Keith, Assistant Librarian, Northwestern University. Following this Dr. Theodore W. Koch of Northwestern University gave an illustrated talk on "Sidelights of the International Congress," with views of the more noted libraries of Europe. The Trustees' Section, under the leadership of Otto R. Barnett of Glencoe, met at 11 a.m. At 2.30 p.m., with the formal

session of the Conference adjourned, the members attended the dedication of the new University of Illinois Library. The exercises were held in the Smith Memorial Music Building.

The following officers were elected for the year: President, M. F. Gallagher, Evanston, Ill.; First Vice-President, Miss Anne M. Boyd, Urbana, Ill.; Second Vice-President, Miss Cora Hendee, Highland Park, Ill.; Secretary, Miss Gladys Allison, River Forest, Ill.; Treasurer, Miss Blanche Gray, Mattoon, Ill.

Colorado Library Association Amends Constitution

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Last year the Colorado Legislature passed two bills affecting libraries in this State. One law created the Colorado Library Commission by merging two old library boards, the Board of Library Commissioners and the Traveling Library Commission. The other law permits counties to "establish, organize and maintain free county libraries." It was the opinion of this meeting that a big step forward had been taken for the library interests, and each one present seemed to have determined that reading facilities should be pushed to the most remote corners of the State.

At this meeting the Association amended its constitution requiring the election of three regional vice-presidents. This was done because the State is so large and distances over the mountains so great that it is hard to have a representative attendance at any one meeting. It is now hoped that in having regional meetings no part of the State need lack fellowship among librarians. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Mary Hoyt, School of Mines, Golden; Vice-President, Mrs. C. Henry Smith, trustee, Boulder Public Library; Vice-President, Andrew J. Floyd, Public Library, Trinidad; Vice-President, Miss Anna Nutter, Public Library, Delta; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Arlene Dilts, State Agricultural College, Fort Collins; Executive Board: Albert F. Carter, State Teachers College, Greeley, and Norma Hardenburg, Public Library, Fort Lupton.

Louisiana Librarians Meet at New Orleans

THE Louisiana Library Association Convention was held in New Orleans April 18-19 in the Public Library and at Tulane University. Robert J. Usher gave an address on "Government Documents in the Public Library"; Prof. Leon R. Maxwell, of Newcomb School of Music, spoke on books which should be purchased by libraries desiring a good working collection on music; Miss Emma Lee, children's librarian of the Rosenberg Library of Galveston, Tex., spoke of the newer books in children's literature. The session devoted to the college library was conducted by James McMillen of Louisiana State University. One interesting topic brought up for discussion was the aid which a college library might legitimately give to a community lacking a public library. Frans Blom, of the Department of Middle American Research, Tulane University, gave an annotated summary of the leading source material dealing with the discovery of the New World and the conquest of Mexico. M. S. Robertson spoke on "The Eradication of Illiteracy in Louisiana," and Miss Louise Krause and D. Ashley Hooker spoke of the service libraries can render business men. The following officers were elected for the new year: President, Robert J. Usher, New Orleans; First Vice-President, Mrs. Lillian H. Mitchell, Monroe; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Olive H. Crane, Shreveport; Secretary, Miss Margery Williams, New Orleans; Treasurer, Miss Mercy Ellis, Jennings.

North Dakota Has Twenty-Fourth Annual Library Meeting

THE TWENTY-FOURTH annual conference of the North Dakota Library Association was held at Devils Lake from Oct. 3-5. Reports of the Adult Education Meeting at Chapel Hill, the two weeks' conference at Madison, Wis., and the Washington conference occupied the opening session. The address of the first evening was given by Prof. W. C. Hunter of the Agricultural College, who spoke on "Culture and the Machine Age." The other meetings of the conference took up various subjects. Archdeacon March discussed the influence of the library and the church. Superintendent Sauvain of the Devils Lake schools discussed the problem of testing a child's reading ability. Miss Gratia Countryman, of the Minneapolis Public Library discussed the country library and the schools, and Miss Elizabeth Baker of the Sheridan County Library in Mon-

tana gave the experiences of a county librarian. The final talk was on "Effective School Service" and was given by Mrs. Hazel Webster Byrne, Librarian of the Mayville State Teachers' College. Officers for the coming year were elected as follows: President, Miss Ruth Brown, Grand Forks; Vice-President, Mrs. Hazel W. Byrne, Mayville; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Harriet Anfinson, Valley City.

European Conditions Discussed

THE CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB met on Oct. 10, 1929, with about 100 members in attendance. During a brief business meeting the officers for the year were introduced. Resolutions on the death of Miss Eva May Ford were adopted. The Chairman of the Membership Committee presented 65 persons who were voted into membership. Taking as her subject, "The New Day in the Old World and What Europe Thinks of the United States," Miss Lutie E. Stearns gave an entertaining account of industrial and social conditions as observed during her visit to Europe in the summer of 1928.

New Jersey Has One Day Conference

THE ANNUAL full meeting of the New Jersey Library Association was held on Oct. 11 at Orange, N. J. Outstanding representatives of the publishing, business and editing field contributed to the meeting. The speakers were Miss Louise Seaman of the Macmillan Company, who discussed current books for boys and girls; William Elder Marcus, Jr., of Marcus & Company, New York, whose paper on the "Business Man and the Public Library Program," was read, in his absence, by Miss Margery Quigley, and Alexander Black, author and editor, who spoke informally on the subject "As the Writer Sees the Reader." The Orange Free Library was turned over for the meeting, and Henry P. Stetson welcomed the association in behalf of the local library board.

The following motion, introduced by Margery Quigley, Librarian of the Free Public Library, Montclair, N. J., was carried: "Through the Secretary of the New Jersey Library Association, the librarians of New Jersey request the compilers of the New Jersey Telephone Directory to enter libraries under the heading 'library' followed by the forms previously used and to continue use of old form also when deemed advisable." Before this motion was introduced Miss Quigley stated that she had been informed that the telephone cost would make such an adjustment at a substantial cost to individual libraries.

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The December Forecast

A check list of books of general interest whose publication dates fall during the coming month.

(Exact date of issue is given when known)

Biography

- Butler, Pierce. *Materials for the Life of Shakespeare*. Univ. North Carolina Press (15th). \$2.
 Gilmore, Alfred Field. *Fellowship*. Stratford. \$3.50.
 Mott, T. B. *Myron T. Herrick; Friend of France*. Doubleday, Doran (2nd). \$5.
 Looker, Earle. *The White House Gang*. Revell (Nov. 30). \$3.

Fiction

- Bailey, H. C. *The Merchant Prince*. Dutton. \$2.50.
 Berkeley, Anthony. pseud. *The Poisoned Chocolates Case*. Doubleday, Doran.
 Ludwig, Emil. *Diana*. 2v. Viking (2nd). \$5.
 Ridge, Lola. *Firehead*. Payson & Clarke (9th). \$2.50.
 Von Linsingen, F. W. B. *The Pressure-Gauge Murder*. Dutton. \$2.

Subscription Books Bulletin

A MUCH needed service to libraries, homes and schools is being undertaken at the headquarters of the American Library Association in the form of a *Subscription Books Bulletin*, a quarterly, the first number of which will appear in January, 1930. Its purpose is to evaluate subscription books and sets sold currently in the United States and Canada. The success of a non-competitive bulletin of similar nature and the many letters of inquiry received at A. L. A. Headquarters indicate a need for critical appraisal of books and sets sold by canvassing agents. The aim will be to weigh each work on its own merits and to express open-minded and unbiased opinions. This approach will place "all the facts on the table" and will probably save many ill-advised purchases. Naturally it will be impossible to report on all sets in the first *Bulletin* or even during the first year, but suggestions from subscribers as to sets they particularly wish to have reviewed will always be welcomed by the chairman, May Wood Wigginton of the Denver Public Library. The committee will also welcome opinions as to the usefulness or shortcomings of sets, or facts about the sales methods employed by subscription book publishers. All of this information will be digested and passed on to subscribers. The price of the *Subscription Books Bulletin* will be \$1.00 a year. Subscriptions should be placed directly with A. L. A. Headquarters, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Miscellaneous

- Cummings, Ralph. *An Artist Talks About Color*. Wiley (15th).
 Dering, Cini Willoughby. *Complete Works*. Payson & Clarke (7th). \$5.
 Engelder, Carl J. *Elementary Qualitative Analysis*. Wiley (15th). \$2.25.
 Goldberg, Dr. Isaac. *The Fine Art of Living*. Stratford. \$2.50.
 Henney, Keith. *Principles of Radio*. Wiley (15th).
 Knapp and Auchter. *Growing Tree and Small Fruits*. Wiley (15th).
 Post, Emily. *The Personality of a House*. Funk & Wagnalls. \$4.
 Townsend and Clearv. *Introductory Mechanical Drawing*. Wiley (15th).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Continued from "Through the Looking Glass" on page 986)

- Beskow, Elsa.
Pelle's New Suit; tr. by Marion Letcher Woodburn; ill. (col.). Harper. \$1.25.
 Brock, Emma L.
Runaway Sardine; ill. by author. Knopf. \$2.
 Buller, Marguerite.
Story of Woofin-Poofin; ill. by author (col.). McBride. \$2.
 Daugherty, James, comp.
Kingdom and the Power and the Glory; ill. by author. Knopf. \$2.50.
 Field, Rachel.
Hitty—Her First Hundred Years; ill. by Dorothy Lathrop. Macmillan. \$2.50.
 Field, Rachel.
Pocket-Handkerchief Park; ill. by author (col.). Doubleday, Doran. 75c.
 Gibson, Katharine.
Goldsmith of Florence; ill. by Kalman Kubinyi. Macmillan. \$5.
 Homer.
Odyssey of Homer; tr. by George Herbert Palmer; ill. by N. C. Wyeth (16 col.). Houghton, Mifflin. \$5.
 King, Elizabeth.
Today's A B C Book; ill. by author (col.). McBride. \$1.50.
 Nicholson, William.
Pirate Twins; ill. by author (col.). Coward-McCann. \$1.50.
 Petersham, Maud and Miska.
Miki; ill. by authors (col.). Doubleday, Doran. \$2.
 Walker, Dugald Stewart.
Sally's A B C; ill. by author (col.). Harcourt-Brace. \$3.
 Wiese, Kurt.
Karoo, the Kangaroo; ill. by author. Coward-McCann. \$1.50.
 Williamson, Hamilton.
Monkey Tales; ill. by Berta and Elmer Hader. Doubleday, Doran. 75c.

Among Librarians

Public Libraries

JOAN ANSLEY, Pratt, has become first assistant in the reference department of the Portland Public Library, and Joyce A. Gross, Los Angeles, has been appointed first assistant in the circulation department.

ETHELWYN BADGER, Los Angeles Library school, who has been for the past five years librarian of the Belmont-Hawthorne branch of the Library Association of Portland, has been transferred to the East Portland library as librarian.

FRED A. BESTOW, Drexel '29, is located at the Woodridge Subbranch of the Washington, D. C., Public Library.

JESSIE D. BESTOW, Illinois '27, is located at the Takoma Park Branch of the Washington, D. C., Public Library.

MRS. ALICE H. BILLINGS, Pratt '25, formerly on the staff of the Long Beach Public Library, has joined the staff of the Los Angeles County Free Library.

MARIA C. BRACE of the Business Branch of the Newark Public Library has become Reference Librarian of the Reading Public Library with a view to developing special reference service to the business and industrial population of Reading.

MARIAN BARBER BRITAIN, Pratt 1927, is a new member of the circulation department staff of the Library Association of Portland.

HELEN H. BROWN, Wisconsin '24, resigned as cataloger, Racine Public Library, to accept the position of cataloger for the Wayne County Library, Grosse Pointe Branch, Mich.

MINNIE A. DILL, Librarian of the Decatur, Ill., Public Library, has been given an extended leave of absence because of ill health.

DOROTHY EARL, Wisconsin '27, has accepted the position as head of the Order Department, San Diego Public Library, Cal.

AGNES HASSELL, St. Louis 1929, has been appointed children's librarian of the Rose City Park branch of the Library Association of Portland.

MRS. NANCY B. R. HUMMEL has resigned as Reference Assistant in the Seattle Public Library, and Maude M. Polley, Columbia '28, has been appointed in her place. Miss Polley was librarian of the International Institute in Madrid, Spain, in 1928-29.

GRACE O. KELLY, Supervising Cataloger and Classifier of the John Crerar Library, is attending Stanford University for an advanced degree in the field of Psychology and Sociology.

JACOB HODNEFIELD has been made Head of the Reference Division of the James Jerome Hill Reference Library, Saint Paul.

ARLIE K. JENKINS, Michigan '29, has joined the staff of the Southeastern Branch of the Washington, D. C., Public Library.

MARGARET KERR, Drexel '28, has joined the staff of the Catalog Department of the Washington, D. C., Public Library.

ETHEL ARCHER LEWIS LACY, is in the Reference Department of the Washington, D. C., Public Library.

RUTH MACDONALD, Washington '25, Cataloger in the Seattle Public Library, has a leave of absence to attend the School of Library Service, Columbia, and Mrs. Mabel E. Lensrud, Washington '27, is substituting in her place.

DOROTHY OMWAKE, Drexel '29, is in the Reference Department of the Washington, D. C., Public Library.

HELEN PARKER, Western Reserve '27, is Children's Librarian at the West Seattle branch, Seattle Public Library, succeeding Clara M. Barnes, who is now head of the Children's Department in the Public Library, Boise, Idaho.

MIRIAM M. PARSONS, Pratt 1929, has been appointed librarian of the Belmont-Hawthorne branch of the Library Association of Portland.

HELEN PURDUM, formerly of the Larchmont, N. Y., Public Library, is now Chief of the Reference Department in the Akron, Ohio, Public Library.

DOROTHY J. RANDALL, Wisconsin '27, has been appointed assistant cataloger, Public Library, Birmingham, Ala.

RUTH D. SCUDDER, Pratt '28, formerly on the staff of the Kalamazoo Public Library, has been appointed librarian of the Village Library at Farmington, Conn.

HELEN K. STARR, Head of the Catalog Division of the James Jerome Hill Reference Library, Saint Paul, has been honored with the additional title of Assistant Librarian.

BESS TIMMERMAN, Pittsburgh '26, is Directing Children's Librarian in the Queens Borough Public Library, Queens Borough, New York City.

LORENE S. WIGHT, Pratt '26, has been appointed director of the re-classification division of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.

MRS. GRACE LANE YOUNG, Wisconsin '09, has been appointed librarian of the Public Library, Sedalia, Mo.

College and University Libraries

AMANDA M. FLATTERY, Cataloger in the University of Illinois Library, has been given the status and allowance of a retired member of the staff. For fifteen years she has cataloged and classified chiefly works related to the Greek and Latin languages and literatures.

LEONA G. KREHBIEL, Illinois '29, has been appointed reference assistant in the Purdue University Library, Ind.

DOROTHY N. KIRK, Illinois '29, has accepted the position as assistant librarian of the American University Library, Washington, D. C.

MARY KITCHEN has been appointed librarian of the Phillips University Library, Enid, Okla.

EFFIE MCKEE, Columbia '29, has been appointed senior cataloger at the University of Nebraska Library.

ETHEL MALEC, Wisconsin '27, has joined the library staff of the University of Wisconsin as assistant in the Loan and Reference Department.

FLORENCE RIDENOUR, Pittsburgh '26, has been appointed Assistant Librarian in the State Teachers College, Indiana, Pa.

GERTRUDE E. ROBSON, Simmons '09, has been appointed catalog librarian at the University of Nebraska Library.

MARJORIE ROGERS, Simmons '24, will become librarian of the Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pa., at the opening of the college year.

MRS. FLORA H. WHYTE, Wisconsin '18, has accepted a position as special cataloger in Connecticut College Library, New London.

EDWARD C. WILLIAMS, Librarian of Howard University, Washington, D. C., has been granted a fellowship by the Julius Rosenwald Fund to enable him to study in the School of Library Service at Columbia University.

RUTH ZIMMERMAN is now assistant in the State Teachers College, La Crosse, Wis.

EDA A. ZWINGGI, Wisconsin '27, has begun work as first assistant in the Circulation Department, University of Iowa Library, Iowa

Library Schools

FANNIE COX, Wisconsin 1914, and M.S., Columbia 1928, has resigned as assistant professor of library science in the Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta.

ETHEL M. FAIR, N. Y. P. L. 1916, has been appointed acting principal of the Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta, for 1929-30.

LYDIA M. GOODING, M.S., Columbia 1929, has been appointed assistant professor of library science in the Library School, Carnegie Library of Atlanta.

Opportunities

This column is open to librarians

Wanted—Assistant cataloger and a reference librarian in a strong college of the Middle West. College and library school training required. S-12.

Librarian with training and excellent experience available for position Jan. 1. Cataloging or organizing preferred. S-10.

High school teacher, with normal school, one year college and three months' course in library science, would like opportunity to gain library experience in public or college library. S-11.

University and library school graduate, with ten years' library experience, desires position in reference or catalog division of large public or university library. S-13.

Young man, 27, with one year library school and about one year's experience in public library and college library work, desires position. Foreign born. R-12.

Experienced librarian, University of Illinois Library School, would like position either temporary or permanent. Prefer position in the South or in a dry climate. R-13.

University graduate, with library and secretarial training, desires position in college, public or business library. Has had some experience in college library work. Reference work preferred. R-14.

University and library school graduate, with ten years' experience in college and public libraries, will be available for position after January 1. R-15.

Library school graduate with twenty years' experience in technical, administrative and teaching (of cataloging) experience, interested in position as chief of Catalog Department in a public library, cataloger for industrial concern or training class instructor. Any location. R-16.

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Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, N. H.

The Calendar

Dec. 29—Library Section of the National Catholic Education Association, regional meeting at Loyola University Library, Chicago, Ill.

Dec. 30-31—Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

April 4-5, 1930—Pennsylvania Library Club and New Jersey Library Association, annual meeting at Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, N. J.

May 1-2, 1930—Louisiana Library Association, annual meeting at Monroe, La.

* * *

NATALIE T. HUHN, Wisconsin '21, was elected librarian of the Oshkosh Public Library, Wis., to succeed Elizabeth A. Lathrop who has joined the faculty of the Division of Library Science, George Washington University.

Annual Report of the Seymour Library

THE 1928 circulation of the Seymour Library, Auburn, N. Y., was 122,352—the largest in the history of the library. This is an increase of 10,900 over 1927, with an increase in every department. The number of books in foreign languages circulated in 1928 was 223, of which number 64 were in French, 48 in German and 111 in Italian. There were 1745 books reserved during the year and 66 books issued on vacation charge. In the Adult Department there has been an increased use of the books on Philosophy, Sociology, Languages, Natural Science, Fine Arts, Literature, Biography, History, and in periodical circulation. *Napoleon*, by Ludwig, continued greatly in demand; as did *Trader Horn*; *The Royal Road to Romance*, by Halliburton; *Mother India*, by Katherine Mayo, and Lindbergh's *We*. Among the 1928 additions, those most in demand have been *Christ at the Round Table*, by Jones; *Disraeli*, by André Maurois; *Safari, a Saga of the African Blue*, by Martin Johnson; *Strange Interlude*, by Eugene O'Neill; *Black Majesty, the Life of Christopher, King of Haiti*, by Vandercook; *Houdini, His Life Story*, by Harold Kellock; *The Story of the Gypsies*, by Konrad Bercovici; *Raiders of the Deep*, by Lowell Thomas, and *Schumann-Heink, the Last of the Titans*, by Mary Lawton.

Sioux City Has Outstanding Year

THE year is outstanding in the increased use made of the Sioux City Public Library; 531,472 books were circulated—a gain of 50,352, or 9½ per cent, and the highest peak ever reached in circulation in the system. This year's gain is over a large gain of 65,900 last year. Of the total circulation, 286,188 books were loaned by the branches, 53.8 per cent of the entire circulation and a gain of 34,605 over last year. 22,670 books were circulated by the deposit stations and 57,955 by the hospital department, which serves 13 hospitals and institutions. This year, with the completion and opening of the North Branch Library, April 1, 1929, the \$100,000 branch building program begun in 1926 has reached the halfway mark of completion. Three branch buildings have been erected and three more are to be built. The popularity of each new branch opened is proved by the circulation and community use. The net addition of books was 5270—making a total of 89,696 books in the system on March 30, 1929. The population of Sioux City given in the latest edition of the *World Almanac* is 80,000—of this number 30.8 per cent are registered borrowers at the Public Library.

St. Paul Cooperates with Boy Scouts

THE St. Paul Public Library has assumed the management and custody of a collection of about 150 volumes on out-of-door subjects which has been recently donated by a group of St. Paul citizens to the St. Paul Area Council of the Boy Scouts. So far as its character and purpose is concerned, this collection is probably unique. The provision of books for recreational reading in the Boy Scout camps is very common. For years the St. Paul Public Library and other public libraries have sent collections of books, not only to Boy Scout camps, but to other camps and to summer welfare centers. But this collection is not for recreational reading. Its purpose is wholly educational. The books, aside from a few that are intended to assist camp leaders in their camp-fire programs and some on such activities as camping and woodcraft, or fly fishing, deal almost wholly with some phase of nature study. There are from one to twenty books on each of the following subjects: Animals, birds, flowers, ferns, mushrooms, trees, insects, reptiles, astronomy, geology and the weather. Some of them are rather costly reference books. They are all intended for serious study in preparation for the various merit badge tests. During the camping season the collection will be housed in a special corner in the new lodge at the St. Croix Boy Scout camp, and the rest of the year it will be taken care of in a special case on the second floor of the Public Library. If the experiment proves as successful as its promoters hope and expect, it is probable that the idea will be widely adopted in many other communities.

Biography Next to Fiction in Choice

THE forty-fifth annual report of the commissioners of the Saint John Free Public Library, New Brunswick, Canada, shows that the total circulation for the year 1928 was 104,015, including 79,227 books taken for home reading. Figures prove that next to fiction readers enjoy biography; next in favor is literature, followed by travel and history. The reference room is largely used, but it is impossible to give exact statistics. The juvenile room circulated 9785 books, of which 6595 were fiction and 3190 were non-fiction. The story-hour on Saturday mornings was carried on during the fall and winter successfully. Books have been loaned to the different Maritime universities, and books have been borrowed from McGill and Harvard for the convenience of readers taking university correspondence courses.

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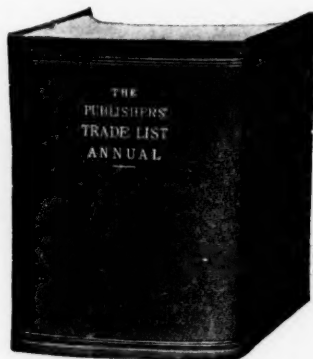
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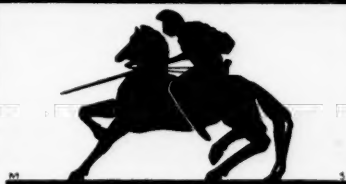
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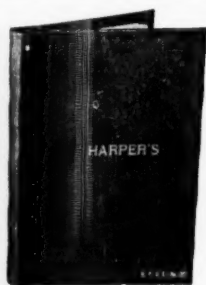
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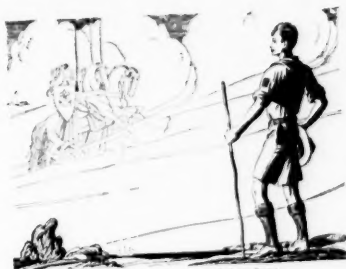
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